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Government Denounces Pro-Lithuanian Rally

AU1804181990 Sofia BTA in English 1747 GMT 18 Apr 90

["Declaration of the Bulgarian Government"—BTA headline]

[Text] Sofia, April 18 (BTA)—The Bulgarian Government denounces the unprecedented and unworthy demonstration held in front of the Soviet Embassy in Sofia on April 17. Similar acts which are targeted against the friendly relations, the cooperation and friendship between Bulgaria and the Soviet Union not only contradict the country's national interests and security, but also hurt some age-old feelings of the Bulgarian people.

The stand of the main political forces in the country is well known, also confirmed with the roundtable agreements, on the importance of Bulgaro-Soviet relations, on the necessity of their mutually-beneficial development. In this sense the demonstration cannot be characterised but as a deliberate act against the democratic renewal of society.

The Nationwide Committee for Bulgaro-Soviet Friendship has also voiced its protest over the anti-Soviet demonstrations in Sofia and Varna, organized by the Federation of Independent Students' Societies. The document reads that similar acts are not remembered even during the fascist and nationalist outrages on the Soviet Union during the Great Patriotic War. Vehement protest has been aired against the initiators and perpetrators of this shameful act and an appeal is launched to the students who have taken part for political maturity, against exultation and extremist acts going outside the framework of elementary political culture.

Let us not disappoint the great Russian and the Soviet peoples, which have always supported us in difficult times despite the attempts of new "prophets" to smear Bulgaro-Russian and Bulgaro-Soviet relations, the protest reads.

Mladenov Meets Public, Religious Leaders

AU1804182090 Sofia BTA in English 1718 GMT 18 Apr 90

[Text] Sofia, April 18 (BTA)—President Petur Mladenov met today Mr. Ginyu Ganev, chairman of the Fatherland Union, Dr. Nedyu Gendzhev, Mr. Akhmed Doganov, leader of the Movement for Rights and Freedoms, Mr. Dimitur Arnaudov, chairman of the Nationwide Committee for the Protection of National Interests, and Mr. Mincho Minchev, spokesman for the Nationwide Committee.

The participants discussed the activities of the sociopolitical forces as regards the country's security and stability at the present moment, and pointed to the necessity of not using the national question for political campaigns and more specifically during the election campaign. The participants voiced their common view that the national interests are above the specific interests of parties, movements, ethnic and religious communities.

Mladenov, Ecoglasnost Leaders on Plant Closing

AU1804193290 Sofia BTA in English 1839 GMT 18 Apr 90

[Text] Sofia, April 18 (BTA)—Petur Mladenov received today Petur Slabakov, chairman of the Ecoglasnost Managing Council, and Khristo Smolenov, member of this movement's leadership.

They handed the president an agreement about closing of the Nonferrous Metals Combine Works near Plovdiv, signed by the Confederation of the Independent Trade Unions, the Coordinating Council for Ecological Protection, Ecoglasnost, the committee for protection of the rights of workers in the combine works and the leadership of the Lead and Zinc Company.

Petur Mladenov convinced them he will do everything possible for the healing of the ecological situation in the region.

Zhelev, Others Address Sofia Democratic Rally

AU1904094790 Sofia BTA in English 1951 GMT 18 Apr 90

["SDS Wants Equal Condition in Pre-Election Campaign"—BTA headline]

[Text] Sofia, April 18 (BTA)—Two great political ideas are inspiring the Union of Democratic Forces and the whole democratic opposition in this country: to take Bulgaria out of the totalitarian communist system and do this in a peaceful way and by peaceful means, said today Zhelyu Zhelev at a SDS [Union of Democratic Forces] rally which was held here. He stressed that most favourable internal and international conditions are existing at the moment for such a type of transition. The speaker said that in the pre-election campaign the SDS will strive towards a unity of actions with all political forces and for complete isolation of the BSP [Bulgarian Socialist Party]. According to Zhelyu Zhelev the behaviour of the BZNS [Bulgarian National Agrarian Union] delegation at the roundtable gives grounds to believe that in the pre-election campaign this party will seek the SDS's help, too.

The SDS spokesman Georgi Spasov accused the BSP leadership that it is lagging behind and not observing the agreement for providing of an equal access to the mass media in the pre-election campaign. He, as well as other speakers, criticized the leadership of the Bulgarian National TV and the Bulgarian Radio and the DUMA daily newspaper (the BSP paper) that they are manipulating on purpose public opinion and are either not covering or misinterpreting the SDS initiatives.

Emil Koshlukov, deputy-chairman of the Central SDS Election Club, convinced the participants that they can

vote freely and without fear at the forthcoming elections. He said the SDS will insist that the best foreign experts will arrive here for the elections who had controlled the lawfulness at the last elections in Nicaragua, the Philippines and Romania. Emil Koshlukov said that during the elections of a Grand National Assembly in June, the president of another country will be paying a visit to Bulgaria, but he did not mention that president's name. Concerning the BSP declaration, emitted on national TV last night, about yesterday's rally of the Federation of Independent Students Associations in front of the Soviet Embassy building in Sofia, the speaker said that the guarantee for Bulgaria's independence is not her participation in the Warsaw Treaty organization, but diplomacy, democracy, security and world acknowledgement.

At the end of the rally, the leader Angel Akhryanov from the Bulgarian Social Democratic Party said that about 300,000 people had been present at the square in front of the Aleksandur Nevski church.

Media Criticized at Sofia Opposition Rally

AU1804194090 Sofia Domestic Service in Bulgarian 1730 GMT 18 Apr 90

[Text] Today the Union of Democratic Forces [UDF] held a large election rally in the Aleksandur Nevski Square in Sofia. The speakers stressed that today Bulgaria is being liberated from [word indistinct], and that today we are all called upon to build a fundamentally new constitutional state.

Certain speakers pointed out that the roundtable agreements were not being fulfilled, and gave specific examples. The mass media were sharply criticized, especially the Television and Radio Committees, which, according to the UDF leaders, are manipulating public opinion and are creating unequal conditions for the election campaign between the main political forces.

We will give a chance to everyone in Bulgaria, we will create equal conditions for everyone, the future depends on us—stated the slogans raised by UDF supporters at the rally.

Chudomir Aleksandrov at BSP Rally in Yambol

AU1904094990 Sofia Domestic Service in Bulgarian 1930 GMT 18 Apr 90

[Text] An election rally of the Bulgarian Socialist Party [BSP] was held in Yambol today, under the slogan: For a peaceful transition to democracy, renewal of society, democratic socialism, and change.

Chudomir Aleksandrov and Vasil Nedev, members of the Presidium of the Supreme Council, took part in the rally. The speakers spoke about the election campaign and about the need for all political forces to rally around democracy and support the political pluralism that has developed since 10 November 1989.

Lilov, Dzhurov Address BSP Rally in Lovech

AU1904094190 Sofia BTA in English 1924 GMT 18 Apr 90

[Text] Lovech, April 18 (BTA)—Aleksandur Lilov, chairman of the Bulgarian Socialist Party [BSP] Supreme Council, said today at a rally in the city of Lovech that free elections are the greatest political event this year in Bulgaria. The future of our country will depend on them. The BSP will strive for a peaceful transition along the way of democracy, he said. "Our platform aims at coming out of the crisis and helping the socially weak, pensioners and ill people. I appeal to all political parties and forces in Bulgaria, to the whole Bulgarian people and all electors: Let us close the pages of violence in Bulgaria once and for always. Let us all work together for the future of our country. Our pre-election slogan is not 'Down with the SDS' [Union of Democratic Forces] but 'A Dialogue With the SDS,' 'A Dialogue With the BZNS' [Bulgarian National Agrarian Union]. The BSP stands for equal rights, for peace and security in every Bulgarian home."

General Dobri Dzhurov, member of the Presidency of the BSP Supreme Council, addressed the rally, too. "Our party stands before the Bulgarian elector as a party of the working people and will strive for a humane and law-abiding society," he said. "Your vote will be the vote for the desired change."

Before the opening of the rally, Aleksandur Lilov, Dobri Dzhurov and Nora Ananieva put flowers and wreaths at the commemorative plaque in the former Slunchev Bryag camp and stood in silence in memory of the inmates who died there.

Foreign Officers View Military Plant Conversion

AU1804195090 Sofia BTA in English 1747 GMT 18 Apr 90

["Conversion Becomes Reality"—BTA headline]

[Text] Turgovishte, April 18 (BTA)—The share of civilian production at the "Khan Krum" Machine Repair Plant here is almost half of the total industrial volume, and is expected to rapidly rise in future. Over 100,000 consumer goods have been designed and new opportunities are sought for cooperation and joint production with prestigious foreign partners.

The 22 senior military officers from 17 countries who visited the plant today were familiarised with these and other facts. The plant had in the recent past specialised exclusively in the manufacturing and repair of military hardware. The guests were able to document what they had seen and heard on tape recorders, video-tapes and cameras. They attended the destruction of decommissioned armoured tank hardware. 503 T-34 tanks will be dismantled and melted by the end of the year.

Lukanov Holds Talks With Business Leaders

AU1804204690 Sofia Domestic Service in Bulgarian 1730 GMT 18 Apr 90

[Text] The meeting that Council of Ministers Chairman Andrey Lukanov had today with business leaders was an expression of a striving toward real economic pluralism and of respect for the role and place of the unions, federations, and chambers, which represent business circles that include all forms of ownership in Bulgaria.

In free, businesslike talks, they discussed the state of the Bulgarian economy and views about reviving and developing economic activity in market economy conditions.

The leader of the government explained certain features of the government program and emphasized that what is needed now is complete national consensus and united action in a single direction in order to implement the economic reform. A crucial prerequisite for this is cooperation with all economic organizations and companies. The government is for maintaining continuous business contacts with them in order to discuss all future decisions which affect their interests.

In their statements, the Bulgarian business leaders raised a number of practical problems related to the wider use of opportunities for business activities. The role of private companies and the need to encourage and facilitate their activities was discussed, with a view towards the priorities of emerging from the economic crisis, of the place and role of the scientific-technical intelligentsia and the economic leaders, and of raising their prestige. Ideas were proposed for future decisions by the government in this field.

Agreement was reached on establishing a permanent consultative group under the government, composed of members representing all the participants in the meeting, which will state its views during the making of important economic decisions and the drafting of acts of law.

Agreement in principle was reached on setting up a private economic bank to offer certain facilities to the private companies, as well as on a system of guarantees provided by the state for the financing of these facilities. The future base of the taxation system will be jointly discussed. A common information system will be created in order to encourage joint companies and ensure better utilization of unused machinery, equipment, and buildings of state enterprises. It was agreed to hold discussions on taxation and other allowances for companies which create new jobs, especially in the regions with unemployed manpower.

National Bank Spokesman on Currency Problems

AU1804153090 Sofia OTECHESTVEN FRONT in Bulgarian 17 Apr 90 p 2

[Report on interview with Vladimir Vladimirov, "spokesman" of the Bulgarian National Bank, by Paun Tsonev; place and date not given: "Monetary Reform Is Not Envisioned"]

[Text] The newly introduced dollar exchange rate reflects the real situation in our country. The 1:9,72 dollar-leva rate, in addition to everything else, means that the majority of Bulgarians are earning monthly wages amounting to $20-30. Naturally, the exchange rate does not reflect the country's real living standard, nevertheless, it is a striking fact—almost unique in the world. It is also high time to stop hiding behind the word inflation, because poverty is the most correct term. Poor men, however, are forced to look for a bank and are increasingly interested in bank activities. We considered this to be sufficient reason to interview Bulgarian National Bank spokesman Vladimir Vladimirov.

Every conversation with a banker today begins and ends with our foreign debt. According to bank specialists, this debt, compared with our country's export opportunities, has already exceeded the limits of a critical situation. By the end of 1984, for example, when our foreign debt amounted to $3 billion, our export capacity, calculated in commodities and services, exceeded $3 billion. By the end of 1989, this debt amounted to nearly $11 billion, while the country's potential export amounted to less than $2 billion. Negotiations with our creditors, which should be of decisive importance for our country, are expected to take place under such circumstances these days, according to the Bulgarian Foreign Trade Bank chairman.

Under such circumstances, it is really difficult to describe Bulgarian citizens' foreign travel as a priority requirement. For precisely this reason, the new exchange rate and the new regulation, according to which citizens going abroad are entitled to a limited amount of foreign currency not exceeding $30, is a natural measure, despite the fact that it represents a limitation of the people's rights. Under the circumstances, however, the first dollar shock was a rather shattering experience. Being afraid that they might be deprived even of this limited $30 amount, large crowds of Bulgarian citizens are in a hurry to purchase dollars, and we know what this means: long lines in front of the banks, lists, and so forth. At the same time, the owners of dollar accounts begin to withdraw their money on a large scale and will presumably sell them on the basis of 10 leva per $1. This phenomenon could be observed recently at Sofia Airport. We should also expect that many citizens will sell their foreign currency to the bank on the basis of the current 1:9.5 exchange rate.

According to the Bulgarian National Bank spokesman, things are gradually returning to normal. Evidently, people begin to understand that this is the real dollar exchange rate in our country. Bulgarian leva are not mentioned in the foreign exchange lists of large European banks. However, the European banks have adopted an exchange rate for leva which is approximately the same as the current rate in Bulgaria, namely 1:10. It is the Bulgarian National Bank's ambition to introduce a system of following and analyzing the monetary supply and demand, at least on a monthly basis, so that the

exchange rates that are used by the bank when trading in covertible currencies in the future may be flexibly adjusted.

Under the circumstances of our country's grave economic crisis, people are beginning to discuss the question of monetary reform. The bank spokesman categorically rejected this idea—monetary reform is not envisioned for the time being; the present government at least has no such intentions, he said. In addition to this, this measure is technically impossible under the present circumstances. However, the possibility of issuing larger denomination banknotes, namely 50 and 100 leva, should not be excluded.

Nevertheless, Vladimir Vladimirov denied the rumors about a possible increase in interest rates for saving accounts and credits. Interest rates are almost nonexistent in our country today and credits are practically free of interest. Inflation is expected to be officially announced in the country within the second half of 1990 (according to unofficial data it amounts to 11 percent today). The bank should therefore react now, considering that people should not receive a rate of interest on their saving accounts that is lower than the annual rate of inflation. As banking experts say, the money would melt otherwise.... This, in turn, would inevitably involve an increase in interest rates for credits, including those that the State Saving Bank grants to private citizens.

The Bulgarian National Bank proposed that interest rates should be increased across the board—saving accounts and credits included—and that an appropriate rate of interest should be paid on the money deposited for the purchase of private automobiles, namely the famous 1,500 leva with which thousands of Bulgarian citizens are annually contributing 1 billion leva to the budget, without receiving any interest. The whole question, however, is related to the size of the future interest rates. The bank spokesman does not question the fact that a credit is a commodity and that interest rates are market related. In Greece, for example nearly 18 percent interest is paid on saving accounts, while interest on citizens' bank credits amount to 20-23 percent. These percentages are even higher in Hungary. What is the logic of setting a minimum of four percent and a maximum of six percent interest rates in our country?! This should be the banks' business, as it is accepted under the market economy system at least.

People in the Bulgarian National Bank have some more ideas, but they can hardly implement them as long as our bank has not become independent from the government. In Austria, for example, the Constitution expressly forbids credits for the state budget being granted by the National Bank, despite the fact that the Austrian National Bank is a shareholders' company and 50 percent of the shares belong to the state! As usual, everything is the other way round in our country, of course—the bank is obliged to credit the budget by law....

Deutsche Bank To Advise Foreign Trade Bank

AU1804123790 Sofia BTA in English 1139 GMT 18 Apr 90

["Deutsche Bank Will Advise Bulgarian Foreign Trade Bank"—BTA headline]

[Text] Frankfurt am Main, April 18 (BTA correspondent)—Deutsche Bank has accepted the proposal of the Bulgarian Foreign Trade Bank to coordinate the restructuring of the Bulgarian bank's debts to all Western lending institutions, Mr Guenther Blaak, deputy governor of Deutsche Bank and head of its Eastern Europe Department, told this correspondent.

This was confirmed by Mr Ognyan Enchev, the Bulgarian Foreign Trade Bank representative in Frankfurt.

Deutsche Bank will probably come up with a plan for the operation of a consortium of Western banks to restructure the Bulgarian bank's debt.

After Deutsche Bank officials hold consultations with other Western partners, they are expected to confer with Bulgarian bank chiefs at the end of this week.

The Deutsche Bank decision comes in the wake of a recent Bulgarian Foreign Trade Bank announcement that it suspends payments on some of its debts to foreign banks.

Earlier, at the CSCE conference on economic cooperation in Bonn, Mr Ivan Tenev, Bulgaria's minister of the economy and planning, received assurances from Mr Hans-Dietrich Genscher, federal vice chancellor and minister of foreign affairs of the FRG, and from Dr Helmut Haussmann, minister of economics, that the Federal Republic was prepared to support reforms in Bulgaria at this crucial point by seeking a solution on the restructuring of this country's foreign debt.

Discussion of Nationality Issues Viewed Necessary

AU1804144990 Sofia NARODNA ARMIYA in Bulgarian 17 Apr 90 pp 1,3

[Simeon Dochev article: "Silence Means Agreement"]

[Text] Prior to 10 November 1989, we never stopped talking about the national revival process, we vied with each other in our efforts to prove that the Bulgarian nation is closely united, and we never failed to point out even the most insignificant arguments in support of the theory about the Bulgarian roots of the Turkish-speaking population. Then, immediately following the events of 10 November 1989, we suddenly fell silent, which means that we admitted to having deceived the people with our articles and indefatigable efforts in research and finding evidence. We have been silent for over five months, which is a new confirmation of our guilt. It is true that many of our articles and lectures on radio and television were exaggerated and some of them were even conceived under pressure. Anyone who knew anything, and even

those who did not know anything, about the subject took a stand on the national revival process. We have all exaggerated, and we are fully aware of this fact.

Nevertheless, our present silence is also exaggerated. Throughout the five months that followed the events of 10 November 1989, the nationality issue underwent numerous zigzag developments and, to be quite honest, we should admit that we can still subconsiously feel its repercussions. I even dare declare that, unless we break our silence, this problem may prevail over the economic crisis and other current social conflicts, making them appear insignificant. Why did our historians stop talking? Are all the results of their research, are all the articles they recently wrote, really nothing but lies? Or has it become embarrassing to mention the mass Islamization of the Rhodope area, or the numerous Ismalization campaigns during the 16th century all over the Bulgarian territories, or the discovery of Christian burial places near the village of Vladimirovtsi in Razgrad province, or the hundreds of voluntary applications to have Bulgarian names restored throughout the years following Bulgaria's liberation from the Ottoman oppression?

Ahmed Dogan, Rights and Freedoms Movement leader, claims today that he does not know a single family whose members do not wish to restore their Muslim names. According to the same logic, without citing names and facts, I could claim that I know some families who do not wish to restore their old names. Both my arguments and his, deprived of specific data and facts, are suspended in thin air, but not quite so. Such assertions serve to manipulate public opinion to a considerable extent, although I could cite a sufficient number of facts in support of my argument. Whoever is even slightly acquainted with the family life and traditional atmosphere prevailing among the Turkish-speaking population in Bulgaria should know how difficult it is for one member of such a family to reject the restoration of his old name. For this reason, let us not be too hasty in resolving the problems in question. The documents adopted by the National Assembly are well-founded and make all our individual, legal, and linguistic interpretations unnecessary.

The political aspect of the problem is even more complicated. Every party is trying to win the votes of the "1.5 million Turks," as Ahmed Dogan calls them, in the election campaign today. In other words, "people are haggling" for a split in the nation and not for its unity. Requests for independent schools, for Turkish language lessons, for special television and radio programs may sound attractive in terms of election campaign agitation, but the time will come to implement these demands and then those who eloquently made such vain promises will be in trouble, because the failure to fulfill such pledges will inevitably have social repercussions, such as we can already feel in the areas densely populated by Muslim citizens. The fields will remain uncultivated, the tobacco will not be picked, the sheep will neither be fed nor milked, and the government will be obliged to make concessions for the sake of the ardently desired peaceful coexistence. As we know, however, every concession means defeat.

It is not my business to prescribe how to resolve the nationality issue, but as a citizen of this country, let me say that the silence of historians, politicians, sociologists, and social psychologists on this highly controversial problem at the present stage is unpardonable. It is not a question of provoking confrontations with the Rights and Freedoms Movement, but a question of engaging in a systematic, serious, and profoundly scientific interpretation of the nationality issue by elucidating all its aspects, without omitting embarrassing facts, but also without omitting the facts that show our historical foresight. Why did we stop writing about the violence to which Bulgarian people were subjected during the Ottoman yoke; why did we stop writing about the de-Bulgarization of our territories, and about our resistance? Why should we not talk about the traditionally good relations between the two ethnic communities during the years of slavery and following it? Why do we keep saying the "so-called national revival process," when this process always existed, ever since the epoch of mass Islamization and up to the present day? The more so, since we have sufficient evidence on which to rely, evidence that was not invented, either today, or in recent years, and certainly not throughout the entire socialist period! Why should the scientific research institutes not analyze the complicated ethnic mutual relations and provide scientifically founded solutions for their future development today?

The documents that were adopted by the National Assembly on the free choice of names, language, and religion, provide a sufficient number of basic postulates for good-neighborly relations. However, they oblige us to examine the problem in all its complicated and multifaceted aspects. In this particular context, our silence about the nationality issue means that we agree with the recently unleashed and expanding nationalist passions and can hardly produce any positive results.

Vratsa Prison Inmates Strike Reported

AU1904093290 Sofia Domestic Service in Bulgarian 0900 GMT 19 Apr 90

[Text] Some 18 persons climbed up on the roof of the Vratsa prison, thus marking the beginning of a strike in support of the strike of the Sofia Central Prison's inmates. A meeting with leaders of the Union of Democratic Forces in Vratsa took place.

The striking inmates stated that while they have no complaints related to the administration of Vratsa prison, they have demands, which they insist on bringing to the attention of the mass media. Among them are: an amnesty, a decrease in sentences by at least one-third, the release of prisoners who have been denied bail, independent control over prison conditions, and other demands related to justice on the part of the court, chief prosecutor's office, and investigation organs. Colonel

Yordanov, commander of the prison, stated that no repressive measures will be applied against the strikers.

NARODNA MLADEZH Independence Discussed

AU1804075490 Sofia Domestic Service in Bulgarian 1730 GMT 17 Apr 90

[Text] The Commission for Youth, Sports, and Tourism, under the National Assembly, discussed the proposal submitted by the NARODNA MLADEZH daily that it be turned into an independent youth newspaper at its session today. Representatives of the daily, of the Bulgarian Democratic Youth, journalists, and public figures attended the session.

The two sides in the conflict—namely, the daily NARODNA MLADEZH and the Bulgarian Democratic Youth leadership—explained their positions. Many of those present expressed their views on the issue.

The Commission for Youth, Sports, and Tourism cannot be the publisher of the daily, commission Chairman Kiril Zarev pointed out, but it approves the opinion that an independent youth daily is actually required.

In order to resolve all technical problems, the contact group must look for solutions in the interest of all young people. The commission proposed to the Union Council of the Bulgarian Journalists Union to discuss the controversy that has emerged between the Bulgarian Democratic Youth Presidency and the editorial collective of the daily NARODNA MLADEZH, and to prepare a proposal on the question of appointing a publisher for the daily.

A parliamentary social group was established that should be attached to the Commission for Youth, Sports, and Tourism and chaired by Neshka Robeva. The commmission is in charge of controlling the observance of the principles proclaimed by the daily NARODNA MLADEZH.

Diplomatic Ties With Vatican Reestablished

LD1904111190 Prague CTK in English 1020 GMT 19 Apr 90

[Text] Prague April 19 (CTK)—Czechoslovakia and the Vatican, wishing to promote friendly relations, have agreed to resume diplomatic ties at the level of the embassy of the Czechoslovak Federative Republic and the Apostolic Nunciature of the Holy See.

Czechoslovakia and the Vatican had established diplomatic relations in 1919 when the Holy See recognized the Czechoslovak Republic (founded in 1918). After March 15, 1939, when the Czech lands were occupied by Nazi Germany while a clero-fascist state was formed in Slovakia one day earlier, the ties were severed, and were resumed in September 1945. The Czechoslovak Embassy in the Vatican started functioning on January 31, 1946.

On April 28, 1950, it was closed down, diplomatic ties were suspended, but not officially severed.

Last Papal Internuncio Xavier Ritter presented his credentials in Prague on June 8, 1946. On March 16, 1950, the Czechoslovak Foreign Ministry asked representative of the Prague Nunciature Ottavio de Liva to leave Czechoslovak territory because of his negative political activity. The internuncio left Prague already before.

Dienstbier on Lithuania, Policy Issues

LD1804191990

[Editorial Report] Prague Domestic Service in Czech at 1600 GMT on 17 April carries an 8-minute question-and-answer session with Foreign Affairs Minister Jiri Dienstbier and Jaroslav Riha, director of the Foreign Affairs Ministry Personnel Department, on its "Radio-forum" program. The questions are asked by the announcers in turn.

Dienstbier is first asked about his work as a journalist in the past and whether he misses those days, to which he replies that he is too busy for reminiscences. In answer to the next question about his views on the criticisms made recently about the quality of media reporting, he says that he does not have much time to listen to the radio. He feels that the problem lies in the fact that under the old system there was little writing on one's own initiative and therefore there are very few people who can write about foreign policy. New talents are already emerging, however.

The next question concerns Dienstbier's concept of the European security commission. CTK reports that THE WASHINGTON POST on Sunday [15 April] published a commentary by Henry Kissinger criticizing the view that the pacts should be dissolved on the old continent and a collective system of security should be formed. Kissinger says this is unrealistic and has been historically shown to be ineffective against the threat to peace from one large dishonest country. Dienstbier is asked to comment on this view. He replies that in his view Kissinger is not criticizing Czechoslovakia's concept, although the program is sometimes misunderstood in such a way. The proposal is not for the abolishment of NATO nor a prewar security system. The existing system was created on the basis of the postwar division of Europe into blocs. If one bloc continues to exist without the intention of changing the system, then a new inequality will arise. The main point is not to abolish the structures which work at present but to overcome them in the future, not with a system of nonbinding collective security but with a system which will have a very low level of arms and will be a structure of 35 countries instead of 16, in which no one will have enough power to stand against the other 34. This is a long-term plan which we must begin aiming toward because if there is no plan, everything would stay the same, and the existing system is already not working today.

The next question concerns the message sent by President Havel to Bush and Gorbachev inviting them to hold their next summit in the Tatra mountains. Dienstbier is asked about the aim of the invitation and whether Czechoslovakia has the resources for the summit. He replies that the offer shows our interest in world events and our interest in taking part as a real and equal partner. It is perfectly within the financial capability and competence of the country to host such a summit.

An announcer then asks Dienstbier:

"[Announcer] I would now like to glance at an area which has of late been a focal point of public attention: Lithuania. I read in the newspapers that the deadline for withdrawing the demand for Lithuania's independence expired yesterday. People in Lithuania are afraid that Moscow could retaliate with sanctions and that there is the possibility of receiving U.S. assistance for Lithuania. What role can Czechoslovakia play in this dispute?

"[Dientsbier] I would say that, first of all, we are unable to forecast what will happen tomorrow or the day after tomorrow, because a large number of variants exists. I think that the two sides have so far showed great restraint and this is a good thing, because both the Lithuanian representatives and the leading representatives in Moscow are well aware that any kind of catastrophic solution to this situation would totally shatter the entire Soviet policy, both domestic and foreign. The Lithuanians, too, are aware that they could not speak of their independence if this kind of policy did not exist in Moscow, so to speak. The two sides have already demonstrated this. The problem is, of course, that there is an infinite number of possible conflicts, which are the legacy of the past. No other country in the world has so many intertwined but at the same time heterogenous problems which have to be tackled. This requires enormous patience on all sides. The principles are clear here. It is necessary to achieve a peaceful transformation of Soviet society into a democratic society and, at the same time, to change it into a federation, a confederation and

unions of free peoples, or possibly to create a situation in which the countries that are totally lacking independence could be independent.

"When I was in Moscow, I asked almost everyone--starting with the highest representatives and ending with the opposition leaders in individual Baltic republics and in other republics—the same thing: Is there any hope that this peaceful transition is possible? All of them gave me essentially the same answer—there is some hope. However, all of them are aware of the enormous tension and of the enormous patience and, at the same time, of the need for a principled attitude when asking for what peoples, social or other groups in the Soviet Union, are truly entitled to, for what proceeds from their human needs. Reconciling these two matters is very difficult and will, of course, be difficult also in the case of Lithuania.

"[Announcer] Could there therefore be any other solution than the one we all want—that is, a conciliatory solution between the Soviet Union and Lithuania, or between Moscow and Vilnius, rather than a return to the Cold War?

"[Dienstbier] Excuse me, but I think that in general the conditions for a return to the Cold War—to the extent to which it was one—do not exist. But I also think that if the Soviet Union exceeded a certain limit, if it simply scrapped the policy which it now promulgates, then it would be very tragic, indeed, and would lead to numerous complications in international relations. But as I say, so far everyone we spoke to on all sides of the spectrum in the Soviet Union expressed their confidence—or rather were striving for a conciliatory solution to these problems.

"[Announcer] Thank You."

The final question concerns suggestions that Czechoslovak foreign policy should not be formed solely by one organ, that is the Foreign Ministry, but that it should be formed by all politicians. Who will coordinate such a foreign policy? Dienstbier replies that their work has only just begun; much has to be done which could not be done in the three-and-a-half months that have passed so far. In the first period all contacts had to be made, and there was no time for future planning. He continues: "This is now changing. The federal government has even appointed the foreign minister to be deputy premier of the government for the coordination of such foreign activity. This does not mean that the Foreign Ministry, or I as the person who should coordinate this, will interfere in the work of individual sectors, but there must be perfect communication, we must do everything together, we must consult one another when a minister travels abroad so that what he says is consistent with the overall policy of the government. We are beginning with this and are beginning to work in more normal ways. I think that nothing very bad has happened yet; surprisingly there is a general consensus on the basic issues so that coordination will not be as difficult as some people might think."

CSFR-FRG To Introduce Visa-Free Travel

LD1804212390 Prague CTK in English 1844 GMT 18 Apr 90

[Text] Prague April 18 (CTK)—Czechoslovakia and the Federal Republic of Germany are to introduce visa-free travels this year, and the FRG wishes it be done before the summer tourist season starts, Bronislav Kulawiec, head of the Czechoslovak foreign Ministry Consular Department, said at a press conference here today.

After Finland, Austria, Italy and all the countries of the former socialist camp, the FRG would become another country to abolish visas in tourism with Czechoslovakia.

Czechoslovakia also wants to start negotiations with Yugoslavia about introducing an exception for Czechoslovaks who are in transit via Yugoslavia to their destination in another country, and would like to abolish the obligatory change of 200 U.S. dollars for Yugoslav dinars for each Czechoslovak tourist, Bronislav Kulawiec said.

The possibility of opening the Czechoslovak-Polish border area for a free movement of tourists not necessitating travel documents is also being discussed, the official said, adding that the talks, however, are obstructed by unresolved economic problems.

Parliament Discusses New Name, Emblem, Holidays

AU1804125790 Prague RUDE PRAVO in Czech 13 Apr 90 pp 1, 3

[Marie Konigova, Petr Vana report: "Question of the Republic's Name Still Open"]

[Text] Prague (From our correspondents)—All the committees of the Czechoslovak Federative Republic Federal Assembly met Thursday [12 April] to discuss the proposal by an initiative group of deputies on the change of our republic's name—Czech and Slovak Federative Republic. Following the issuance Tuesday of the joint position of the presidiums of all three legislative bodies, it appeared possible to finally reach some kind of nationwide consensus and that the discussion surrounding our name will end. However, this has not been the case.

The Federal Assembly has 18 committees, besides the mandate and immunity committees. Thursday's sessions ended as follows: The newly proposed name has been recommended by 12 committees for approval. The remaining six committees have rejected the proposal. The voting has not been unambiguous even in the committees which have been in favor of this proposal, and this is why there are justified fears that at the joint meeting of both chambers the necessary three-fifths majority of votes may not be reached.

Two opinions prevailed during the discussions in committees. The first one is that the republic's name should be decided in parliament after the elections; the second one is that the discussion at the last joint session be

brought to a conclusion and that a constitutional law on the equality of the Slovak version of the name should be passed. Use of both names would then be regulated by a Federal Assembly law. One republic would have two names. The deputies pointed out that even this constitutional law may not receive three fifths of the votes. In this case only the already approved name, Czechoslovak Federative Republic, would remain, and the Slovak version would be added as a simple translation. Some deputies, particularly Slovak ones, warned against this situation.

The discussions about the new republic's name are continuing.

The constitutional and legal affairs committees were also to take a stand on the president's proposal on the federation's emblem. Despite the anticipated agreement here—since the emblem is supposed to contain only the symbols of individual republics—the committees have had to make their agreement conditional. The Office of the President rejected the already approved appearance of the Czech lion and proposed a different one, which does not conform to the Czech National Council constitutional law, however. That is why it is important to agree on a single "shape" of the lion before the state emblem is discussed in the chambers.

The committees for culture and education received a draft law, by which changes would be made to national days, public holidays, and to distinguished and memorable days [vyznamne a pamatne dny] of the Czechoslovak Federative Republic. According to this law, the following days should become national days: 28 October (day of establishment of the independent Czechoslovak state), 9 May (day of victory over fascism), 5 July (day of the Slav apostles—Cyril and Method). The following days should become public holidays: 1 January, Easter Monday, 1 May, and three days at Christmas, including Christmas Eve. Distinguished days would be the following days: 5 May [anniversary of the Prague uprising against fascism] and 29 August [anniversary of the Slovak National Uprising]; 6 July (anniversary of Jan Hus' burning at the stakes) would become a memorable day. The initiative group of deputies did not originally count with 9 May as National Day. The discussion of deputies, however, has made it clear that this day must remain a holiday as an expression of gratitude to all the allies who have their share in the liberation of our country, and who lost their lives in the fight for freedom in World War II.

The discussion about the new name of the republic in the Czech National Council also took a similar course. Six out of nine committees approved the new name, two were against it. The rather distressed atmosphere is epitomized by the situation in the Constitutional and Legal Affairs Committee: seven out of 14 deputies approve of the new proposal, one disapproves, and six deputies abstained from voting. So, despite the fact that the majority of deputies approve the new name, the question remains open.

One of the committees requested that the "unofficial" name—Czechoslovakia—which is in general use, be included directly in the law; in other committees the opinion prevails that "this is self-evident." This name, however, has not been directly anchored in the constitutional law as yet.

Minister Rules Out Large-Scale I and Privatization

AU1804131790 Prague ZEMEDELSKE NOVINY in Czech 12 Apr 90 p 1, 11

["mak"-signed report: "Society Cannot Afford It"]

[Text] Prague—At the outset of the report on yesterday's news conference with Oldrich Bursky, Czechoslovak Federative Republic minister of agriculture and food, we have to explain our headline. According to the participants in the news conference, society does not have sufficient means for large-scale privatization of our agriculture. It is important to use the values, amounting to billions, created by agricultural enterprises in a much better way.

Of course, many mistakes were made in the past as a result of the administrative command system of management, whether forced collectivization—the creation of large entreprises and territorial entities, disproportional intensification of production, especially in the foothills and in the mountain regions—or the negative impact on the environment. According to Minister Bursky, one must expect that large-scale production will continue to play a dominant role in the future as well, particularly cooperative large- scale production. It is necessary, however, to create prerequisites, both legal and economic, so that equal conditions are created for all forms of production.

Ministry officials, therefore, have been working intensively, in particular, on the law on cooperative agriculture (we have already written about this in ZEMEDELSKE NOVINY several times and we also mention this law elsewhere in today's issue) and the law on land. As far as the economic conditions are concerned, it is impossible to expect that private farmers (statistics show 3,470 of them) would receive special subsidies. Our society, as has been said already, cannot afford it. However, their pension plan will have to be improved. They will be taxed according to the law on the taxation of private enterprise, which is under preparation, and not according to the agricultural tax law, as they have been so far. On the other hand, it is not true that farmers have not been able to make their purchases at wholesale prices. According to Deputy Minister Svatopluk Chalupa, the pertinent Federal Finance Ministry decree of 1969 allows this. He added tactfully that the relevant offices have forgotten this decree.

A broad discussion was held about land, its ownership, its price, etc. It was said that the landowners will be allowed to decide what to do with the land—whether they themselves will cultivate the land, whether they will lease it out, or whether they will use it as their stake or

equity share in a cooperative or a farm. The question of the land price is also complex. Price fixing will depend on the so-called value appraisal units [bonitacni ekonomicka jednotka], which are determined for each lot separately. In other words, the abolition of the current Pes. [abbreviation unknown] is foreseen. The rental should be within the range of 1 to 2 percent of the land price.

Federal Assembly Session Opens in Prague

LD1804140590 Prague Domestic Service in Czech 1100 GMT 18 Apr 90

[Text] [Announcer] Roman Zamboch will inform us directly from the Federal Assembly about the 27th joint meeting of the Chamber of the Nations and the Chamber of the People of the Federal Assembly.

[Zamboch] Hello. At exactly 1235, Stanislav Kukral, the deputy chairman of the parliament, opened the 27th joint meeting—more than two-and-a-half hours later than planned. This break was requested by the communist deputies, who wanted to get an immediate explanation on the content of yesterday's parliamentary letter from Tomas Sokol, the prosecutor of the City of Prague.

Therefore [the deputies awaited] the arrival of Dr. Boehm, general prosecutor of the Federation, and of Dr. Rychetsky, the general prosecutor of the Czech Republic.

(?Dr Rychetsky) declared about 20 minutes ago that Dr. Sokol's letter was a matter of private initiative and assured all deputies that the prosecution office branches have a nonpolitical basis, making them resistant to political pressures. He said that a disciplinary proceeding against Dr. Sokol would begin.

Much about the event disturbed the planned discussion of economic laws—the laws on which, above all, private entrepreneurship depends and which are of key importance for the entire state economy and the shift to a market economy. The Federal Assembly deputies will be able to discuss them only in the afternoon. The meeting will continue until 20 April, when the deputies will again discuss the change of the name of the Czechoslovak Federative Republic.

[Announcer] That is all at the moment from our Parliamentary Radio studio. You shall hear from us again in an hour.

Chambers Disagree on Ownership Law

LD1804153290 Prague Domestic Service in Czech 1330 GMT 18 Apr 90

[Text] [Announcer] The main event today is without doubt the 27th joint meeting of the Chamber of People and the Chamber of Nations of the Federal Assembly. Our correspondent Roman Zamboch reports from the parliament building on its proceedings up to now.

[Zamboch] Good afternoon. Once again it has been demonstrated here in the parliament how much plans and intentions can differ from reality. In the course of this three-day session, parliament is expected to discuss 15 key economic laws. At the same time, even the first one—which changes and amends the current valid Constitution—was discussed but not approved by the deputies. Its purpose is to create a legal condition for further discussion, because the Constitution to date granted constitutional guarantees only to the so-called socialist, that is collectivist, forms of ownership, and entirely omitted private ownership. As you probably know, it is precisely private ownership, which is the point at issue concerning all other proposed legislative drafts. However, the question of ownership of natural resources—Article 10 of the Constitution—turned out to be a bone of contention. Should the Federation bodies or the bodies of individual republics decide on it? The draft bill proposed the first variant. Both chambers took differing standpoints on this, and this is why a conciliatory proceeding [dohadovaci rizeni] is once again on the agenda right now, just as we could see last time when a decision on the title of Czechoslovak Federative Republic was being made. The proceedings had to be interrupted, so that unfortunatley economic laws must again and again wait.

I owe it to those who listened to my noon report to reply to the question of what standpoint was taken by the communist deputies at their extraordinary session on the letter of Tomas Sokol, Prague city prosecutor. They unanimously rejected the letter and asked Dr. Pavel Rychetsky, Czech Republic prosecutor general, for an explanation. He, too, dissociated himself from the letter and said that it constituted a private initiative of Dr. Sokol and not a legal decision.

Therefore, today's parliament proceedings are so unpredictable that I do not dare predict its future agenda. The conciliatory proceeding on constitutional law should end first of all. I hope that we shall know more before the main news bulletin. Now I am returning to Radio Prague.

Assembly Passes Bill on Constitution

LD1804212290 Prague CTK in English 1818 GMT 18 Apr 90

[Text] Prague April 18 (CTK)—Equality of and equal legal guarantees for state, cooperative and private ownership are embodied in a constitutional law, changing the constitution of the Czechoslovak Federative Republic and the constitutional law on the Czechoslovak Federation, which was passed by the Czechoslovak parliament today.

The purpose of the law is to create scope for legal guarantees for market economy.

The constitutional law states that the state grants equal protection to all types of owners. Expropriation or any other restrictions of property rights can be carried out

only in accord with respective laws and for compensation, while such a decision can be appealed against.

The constitutional law enables foreigners to do business on Czechoslovak territory in accord with conditions set by the law and to acquire property rights.

The law stipulates that citizens may join agricultural land for common cooperative farming but at the same time guarantees the involability of property and inheritance rights. The law also explicitly prohibits harming environemnt in exercising property or user rights. The state is obliged to create conditions for and set principles of development and protection of business and economic competition.

An amendment of the economic code, reacting to the fact that Czechoslovak citizens are able to run private businesses was passed by the Czechoslovak parliament here today.

According to the amendment, private entrepreneurs will enter mutual exchange ties or will cooperate with the existing organizations. They will be able to use contractual and other legal tools.

Protection of businessmen against unlawful actions and controls is laid down in the amended economic code. It also bans activities which run counter to the rules of economic competition and which could harm other competitors. At the same time the amendment forbids any form of discrimination against a customer and such activities or mutual agreements which would or customers.

The economic code introduces a lien in case an organization does not fulfil its obligations towards another one.

Passes Private Enterprise Bill

LD1904075290 Prague CTK in English 0630 GMT 19 Apr 90

[Text] Prague April 19 (CTK)—The Czechoslovak Federal Assembly passed late last night a bill on private enterprise, requiring persons wishing to set up a private busines only to register while so far they had to undergo permission procedures.

The law sets no restrictions regarding the number of employed persons or the extent of property. Individuals can do business in all spheres where socialist organizations are allowed to operate.

Complete transition to market economy is inseparably linked with speedy development of private enterprise as an equal form of state and group enterprise. Private enterprise is expected to speed up economic development and in the future will be of decisive importance in forming competitive structures.

The law creates prerequisites for the participation of foreign capital and for mobilizing free resources of citizens in favour of economic development. The participation of foreign entrepreneurs will be linked with imports of modern technologies and know-how and the application of modern methods of management.

The law requires changes of other legal regulations which so far failed to consider private enterprise an equal form of doing business. The changes are on the agenda of the present parliamentary session.

Further on Assembly Proceedings

LD1904090890 Prague Domestic Service in Czech 0800 GMT 19 Apr 90

[Text] [Announcer] The 27th joint meeting of both Federal Assembly chambers continues in Prague today, its second day. Jan Smihula, our correspondent, reports directly from the parliament building about the deliberations of the deputies.

[Smihula, in Slovak] I wish you good morning from the parliament building. For just under 90 minutes we have been following the deliberation of the second day of the joint meeting chaired by Jozef Simuth, Federal Assembly deputy chairman. The deputies continue to discuss economic and financial laws. You probably already know that late last night, just before midnight, they passed a long-awaited law on private enterprise. According to the latest public opinion poll carried out at the end of March, 17 percent of those asked were impatiently awaiting it. Now their expectations are fulfilled.

The deputies are now debating the amendment of the government's draft bill on revenue tax. The first law which was discussed and passed today by the deputies was the government's draft bill, which changes and amends the law on state arbitration. The main task of the amendment, as was stressed by Deputy Federal Premier Jan Carnogursky when introducing the debate, is to resolve the legal position and safeguard the rights of private enterpreneurs. Apart from this, the purpose of the amendment is to democratize the process of arbitration. It enhances the position of participants and thus this process is, to a considerable degree, brought closer to judicial proceedings while all its specific features are retained. It is therefore possible to say that the draft amendment on the law on state arbitration preserves the continuity of the previous situation, but, at the same time, it introduces into the process of arbitration a whole series of components characteristic of judicial proceedings.

A short while ago the deputies passed the government's draft bill which changes and amends the law on turnover tax, and the (?wording) of the law on agricultural tax. It defines the position of new types of enterpreneurial subjects as turnover taxpayers. As is known, the previous legal amendment only applied to socialist oraganizations. So this is the end of my current report on the proceedings of the joint meeting of the two chambers. Jan Smihula ends his report from the Federal Assembly building.

Sacher Briefs Journalists on State Security

LD1804151390 Prague CTK in English 1303 GMT 18 Apr 90

[Text] Prague April 18 (CTK)—Reacting to the Czechoslovak public's fears that the former State Security Corps still might reverse the developments in Czechoslovakia, Interior Minister Richard Sacher said here today that his ministry's primary task is to form an efficient structure capable of paralyzing such phenomena.

The Czechoslovak interior minister met with journalists before the opening of the 27th joint session of the House of Nations and the House of the People of the Federal Assembly. He responded to speculations and rumours about his resignation.

He recalled that he is criticized for a slow course of action in reorganizing of the whole sphere under his ministry's jurisdiction, screening of parliament deputies and a dispute between his deputies.

Asked why former State Security workers are still members of the National Security Corps, he said that State Security components have been dismantled and its workers were included among reserves. Thus far there exists no other legal way, the minister said adding that already at the end of February he submitted to the defence-military committees of the Federal Assembly a draft for amendments to the law on duty which provides for cutting the six-month term during which wages must be paid to reservists. Thus far the amendments have not been discussed.

Richard Sacher rejected the stand held, for instance, by Oldrich Hromadko and others, according to which State Security was a criminal organization and therefore all its former members must be immediately and without compensation dismissed.

(Oldrich Hromadko is one of those who criticize Minister Sacher saying that he acts with insufficient resolve against State Security, works in an amateurish and naive way, and underestimates danger.)

In reply to a question concerning bugging, Czechoslovak Interior Minister Richard Sacher said that he has ordered a list of the representative missions fitted with secret listening apparatuses which, however, are no longer operating.

There exists also a list of bugged private flats, the minister said adding that no one need be afraid that the devices are used by the ministry.

On screening of Federal Assembly deputies, Richard Sacher said that he would like to speak about this question in parliament since he expects that a motion of confidence or no confidence in him will be tabled.

However, he stressed, all screening of this kind was carried out without his knowledge. That is why he immediately banned and blocked it. All records concerning deputies have been placed in a safe. They are entirely inaccessible and the names of some deputies who had contacts with the Interior Ministry cannot be misused for political ends.

The minister also said that he demands that two of his deputies—Jaroslav Prochazka and Viliam Ciklamini—be recalled from their posts.

Ministry Officials Explain Dispute Over Screening

LD1804212690 Prague CTK in English 1840 GMT 18 Apr 90

[Text] Prague April 18 (CTK)—Members of a screening commission at the Czechoslovak Interior Ministry and two deputy interior ministers today tried to explain the essence of the dispute between Interior Minister Richard Sacher and the commission, and between the minister and his two deputies.

According to commission members the core of the problem is that Minister Sacher surrounded himself with people linked with old structures. They pointed out that the ministry was therefore able to act within one single hour just as it did before November 17, 1989. However, Deputy Interior Minister Colonel Jaroslav Prochazka saw the essence of controversies in the differing opinions of the security concept with which he personally disagreed as he was against police methods of finding out the moods and opinions of people.

Another dispute was caused by the screening of persons in state positions and their ties with the State Security Service. Director of the authority to Protect the Constitution and Democracy Zdenek Formanek carried out screening at the request of ministers, according to colonel Prochazka. Minister Sacher banned such screening but then engaged in screening procedures himself, even of the Federal Assembly deputies, Colonel Prochazka stated.

Members of the screening commission refuted opinions of newsmen that Minister Sacher was trying to favour the Czechoslovak people's Party of which he is a member, but at the same time believed he rather harms it by his present activities.

A debate on the situation at the Interior Ministry was held at the Civic Forum coordinating Centre headquarters Tuesday, with Czechoslovak President Vaclav Havel and Premier Marian Calfa taking part, but no results of the debate had been disclosed.

Meanwhile, director of the authority to protect the constitution and Democracy Zdenek Formanek delivered a statement to CTK, denying Minister Sacher's allegation at a press conference earlier in the day that he (Formanek) had whole groups of persons screened, referring to a report of the Czech Republic's General Prosecutor's Office, Formanek stated that the screening of Federal Assembly deputies was carried out clearly upon an instruction by Minister Sacher and was conducted by

his secretary and not by the authority to Protect the constitution and Democracy.

Speculation Interior Minister To Be Dismissed

AU1804133590

[Editorial Report] Prague ZEMEDELSKE NOVINY in Czech on 13 and 14 April, on page 1 in each instance, publishes two 250-word articles by Jan Subert dealing with a "serious dispute between the federal minister of interior and his deputies" and the possible political background of this conflict. Prague MLADA FRONTA in Czech on 17 April on page 2 carries an 800-word article by Tomas Marek and Rostislav Rod dealing with speculation that Richard Sacher, the federal minister of interior, is shortly to be dismissed.

In his 250-word article in the 13 April issue of ZEMEDELSKE NOVINY, entitled "Minister Versus Deputy Ministers," Subert point out that there is a "dispute between the minister [Sacher] and his deputies" concerning the "speed of the democratic transformation of the security apparatus." Subert criticizes the fact that this dispute is taking place "behind the closed doors of government offices, political movements, and the parliament" and that "official sources remain silent" on it. Subert asks that the public be told what is going on in the Ministry of Interior because this is a key government department which "must be subject to broad civic control in a democratic society."

On 14 April, on page 1, ZEMEDELSKE NOVINY carries a 250-word article by Jan Subert entitled "Political Background?" Subert opens his article by saying: "As we reported yesterday, a serious dispute between the federal minister of interior and his deputies occurred last week. Everything suggests that the confrontation between them, in the background of which is the speed of restructuring of the security apparatus, is about to reach a critical point. However, some circumstances raise the question of whether even much more is not hidden behind this dispute." Subert goes on to say that, even though his own "usually well-informed sources are suspiciously stingy when it comes to providing facts," it is nevertheless possible "to piece together a certain picture from the patchy, fragmented information that is available": "It is possible to say, with a great degree of likelihood, that some hitherto unknown event of an evidently exceptional political impact occurred last week. The eloquent silence surrounding it at the same time indicates that it is the subject of talks at the highest levels of the state and that, to this day, there does not exist a consensus on how to deal with it. According to some sources, this matter is to be discussed by the federal government on Tuesday [17 April].

"If this really is the case, then one can only deduce the following: Something much more important than the democratic restructuring of the department is in the background of the dispute between the minister and his deputies."

Prague MLADA FRONTA in Czech on 17 April on page 2 carries an 800-word commentary by Tomas Marek and Rostislav Rod entitled "Hide- and-Seek." The authors open the commentary by saying: "The defense and security committees of the Federal Assembly met behind closed doors at the end of last week. Rumor has it that the deputies discussed a very sensitive issue—the expression of confidence or no confidence in R. Sacher, LLD, minister of interior of the Czechoslovak Federative Republic. According to information supplied yesterday by P. Caslavska, deputy chairwoman of the defense and security committee, L. Lis, chairman of the committee, discussed this delicate issue with Federal Assembly Chairman A. Dubcek and even with President V. Havel.

"The fact that no official reports and explanations are available naturally opens room for some speculation. Two versions are the most tempting ones. The dispute between the minister and parliament is either professionally motivated, or its foundation is political."

The authors go on to examine the first possibility. They recall the dispute between Minister Sacher and Oldrich Hromadko, Charter 77 signatory and chairman of the security committee of the Civic Forum Coordinating Center. They point out that Hromadko urges a "much more rigorous course of action" against the state security, including the immediate dismissal of all its members, and accuses Sacher of "amateurishness, naivete, and underestimation of danger" posed by the state security. They also refer to the fact that the minister of interior has released "compromising" archive materials about Hromadko's role as commander in a forced labor camp in the fifties, although, as they stress, they do not want to comment on the assertion that "the minister of interior published these compromising materials for personal reasons, misusing his position for a political power struggle." Professionally motivated objections to Sacher have also been put forward by "some of his deputies," Marek and Rod continue, who "claim that R. Sacher devotes himself more to foreign travel and to propagating his party (the Czechoslovak People's Party) than to his ministerial post."

The authors then consider the other possibility, that of a politically motivated desire to get rid of Sacher: "The expression of no confidence in Minister Sacher in the committees of Federal Assembly chambers could also have other than professional motives, which would be far more dangerous for the further development of our country. It is quite possible that we are bearing witness to the start of real pre-election struggle. According to the latest surveys of public opinion, the Christian Union—the coalition of the Czechoslovak People's Party, Czech and Slovak Christian Democrats, and the Free Farmers' Party—is becoming practically the strongest political subject. Its adversaries' popularity is stagnating or they are even losing percentage points. The coming visit of John Paul II could orientate the public even more strongly in the direction of Christian ideals and could raise the Christian- oriented parties' prospects in the elections. All of a sudden, the whole matter appears in a

completely different light because the seat of the interior minister could be most important in the preelection struggle."

In conclusion the author express the hope that, no matter which theory is the correct one, the dispute around Sacher will not escalate and will not cause an internal political crisis in the country.

Prosecutor's Office Distances Itself From Sokol

LD1804152490 Prague Domestic Service in Czech 1100 GMT 18 Apr 90

[Text] The Prosecutor General's Office of the Czech Republic statement reads that its leadership learned about the letter of Tomas Sokol, Prague city prosecutor, addressed to the Czechoslovak Communist Party Central Committee, only after the letter was published in the media. Thus the content of the letter was not submitted for consultation beforehand with any higher body of the procuracy and it only contains Tomas Sokol's personal views.

The Prosecutor General's Office of the Czech Republic does not share this stance, especially the abbreviated version that was published. The Prosecutor General's Office of the Czech Republic responsibly states that it considers the principles of tolerance, humanity, and democracy to be the basis for the relations constructed in society after 17 November last year. The procuracy fully respects and will continue to fully respect the valid legal code, absolute impartiality, and a nonpartisan atitude. The procuracy will instigate criminal proceedings against any criminal activity about which it learns and its work will not succumb to political pressures irrespective of their origin. The observance of this principle which is (?an unconditional prerequisite for) introducing legal guarantees for the citizens entails the duty to denounce any kind of expressions of intolerance toward individuals and groups of citizens based solely on their party allegiance, convictions, or religious faith. Prosecution can be carried out only on the basis of specific deeds, only against persons, and the procuracy is not competent to either permit or ban the organizing of citizens in voluntary organizations and political parties or movements.

Legal evaluation of the work of the Communist Party of Czechoslovakia contained in Tomas Sokol's letter should therefore be addressed rather to the legislative corps as a suggestion for a possible legislative assessment. Although the Czech Office of the Prosecutor General understands the emotional feelings of a number of citizens evoked by our country's totalitarian past, it does not consider it permissible that responsible representatives of state bodies should succumb to this emotional attitude when exercising their duties.

With regard to the coming election campaign and to the remnants of totalitarian structures, which are becoming more active, the Prosecutor General's Office of the Czech Republic appeals to all citizens to be unyielding, but, at the same time, to be level-headed, calm, and to consistently obey the law. The standard which corresponds to the traditions of our country and to the legacy of its history can only be preserved through a dignified, free, and strictly legal approach, the Prosecutor General's Office of the Czech Republic's statement asserts.

Sokol Letter on CP Said To Lack Legal Basis

LD1804152690 Prague CTK in English 1425 GMT 18 Apr 90

[Text] Prague April 18 (CTK)—Prague prosecutor Dr Tomas Sokol's letter published yesterday on the possibility of considering Czechoslovak Communist Party activities an offence on propagating fascism, expressed only Dr Sokol's personal point of view, the Czech general prosecutor's office stated here today.

The statement delivered also to the members of Czechoslovak Federal Assembly said that Czech general prosecutor learnt about the letter, directed to the Czechoslovak Communist Party Central Committee, only from the mass media. Its contents have not been consulted with any higher body to the prosecution and the general prosecutor's office of the Czech Republic does not share Dr Sokol's point of view, especially in its short version as it appeared in the press.

The Czech general prosecutor's office stressed that the legal assessment of the Czechoslovak Communist Party activities as viewed by Dr Sokol should have been addressed to legislative bodies as a stimulus for possible legislative consideration.

Czech general prosecutor Pavel Rychetsky said that disciplinary proceedings will be started against Dr Sokol in harmony with legal rules. The deputies will be informed of the results, Pavel Rychetsky said.

He added that Dr Sokol's letter expressed his private view only, and therefore is not legally binding. It is not necessary to adopt any legal acts to abolish its validity, Pavel Rychetsky said.

CPCZ Reacts to Prosecutor Stance on Party

LD1804195490 Prague Television Service in Czech 1730 GMT 18 Apr 90

[Text] At today's news conference by the CPCZ [Czechoslovak Communist Party] we were informed that the Executive Committees of the CPCZ Central Committee and the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Bohemia and Moravia adopted a standpoint on the letter of the Prague city prosecutor Dr. Tomos Sokol at today's extraordinary session, from which we select the following. I quote:

The executive committees consider the aforementioned letter to be an intentional attempt to discredit a legal political party. It attempts to evaluate the political activity of the CPCZ, an evaluation which it is not qualified to carry out, and attempts to make it out to be

criminal. The Executive Committees are convinced that the letter and its publication constitute an attempt to increase tension in society, which threatens the program of democratic changes. We are of the opinion, the statement continues, that the letter of the Prague city prosecutor can only be of benefit to extremist forces, whether on one side or the other, striving for the breakdown of society.

At the close of the statement, the Executive Committees of the CPCZ demand that Dr. Sokol's decision be considered invalid and that the relevant steps be taken with regard to his behavior.

TU Presidium Elected; Ties With WFTU Severed

AU1904102990 Prague PRACE in Czech 13 Apr 90 pp 1,2

["zr"-signed report: "Strike and Strike Alert Called Off; Statement by the General Council of the Czechoslovak Confederation of Trade Unions"]

[Excerpt] Prague—The General Council of the Czechoslovak Confederation of Trade Unions [CSKOS] met at its fourth meeting in Prague yesterday [12 April]. Following the Slovak All-Trade Union Congress [held on 9-10 April], the confederation's structure has now assumed its definitive shape.

The CSKOS General Council is made up of the Czech-Moravian Chamber and of the Assembly of the Confederation of Trade Unions of the Slovak Republic. The meeting elected the Presidium of the CSKOS General Council on the basis of recommendations of these two national representative bodies. V. Petrus, R. Kovac, and A. Englis are vice presidents and V. Vanek, P. Simerka, J. Pergl, L. Polka, and S. Korbel are other members of the Presidium. The last Slovak representative will be elected at the next Assembly of the Confederation of Trade Unions of the Slovak Republic. President I. Pleskot and Vice President R. Falbr, who were elected at the first meeting of the General Council, remain in their posts. The General Council approved the appointment of B. Subrt as executive secretary.

Furthermore, the General Council discussed the attitude of CSKOS toward the World Federation of Trade Unions [WFTU]. The Council reached the conclusion that the confederation does not feel itself a member of the WFTU and is not involved with it in any way. The economic and legal commitments toward this organization will be settled by the Union of Trade Unions [Unie odborovych svazu]. [passage omitted]

Czech NF Dissolved, Successor Group Set Up

AU1804131190 Prague ZEMEDELSKE NOVINY in Czech 12 Apr 90 p 2

[CTK report: "Association Established"]

[Text] Prague— At yesterday's session [11 April] in Prague, representatives of the organizations united in the Czech Republic National Front noted the termination of the activity of the Czech Republic National Front [NF] Central Committee Presidium and Secretariat. They decided to establish the Association of the Czech Republic Social Organizations [Sdruzeni spolecenskych organizaci Ceske republiky]. The association has accepted as its members the Czech Society of Diabetics, Free Farmers Party, Republican Party of the Czechoslovak Countryside, Party of the Moravian Countryside, and the "Unizem" Association.

Slovak Anti-Fascist Fighters Union Holds Congress

AU1804165990 Bratislava PRAVDA in Slovak 13 Apr 90 p 4

[CTK report: "Without Government's Participation"]

[Text] Bratislava—Delegates representing the base of the Slovak Union of Anti-Fascist Fighters, which is composed of about 67,000 members, met at the union's extraordinary congress in Bratislava's Park of Culture and Relaxation yesterday. The congress decided to keep the organization's original name. It elected its central bodies and confirmed Jozef Brunovsky as the head of the organization. Julius Chovan, up to now the federal union chairman, was not elected as a member of the Slovak Union of Anti-Fascist Fighters Central Committee by a majority of votes. The discussion was dominated by voices protesting against the current belittlement of the share of our resistance fighters in the victory of anti-fascist forces in Europe. The congress voiced its disagreement with the growing separatist tendencies in Slovakia and with the widening differences among the nations of our country. In the name of the union it also apologized to all the resistance fighters who were persecuted in the past. The debaters also expressed astonishment at the fact that not a single Slovak government member found it worth his time to attend the congress.

Party of Democratic Socialists Chairman Resigns

AU1804165090 Bratislava PRAVDA in Slovak 13 Apr 90 p 4

[CTK report: "Chairman Has Resigned"]

[Text] Bratislava— Igor Cibula, Ph.D., Party of Democratic Socialists chairman, has announced his resignation from the post of party chairman. He justified his decision by his acceptance of the position of deputy chief editor of the daily NARODNA OBRODA, which will be published by the Slovak Republic government as an independent daily newspaper of Slovak citizens. Dr. Cibula's resignation from the Party of Democratic Socialists leadership is also related to the fact that he did not agree with some leading functionaries who rejected cooperation with the civic initiative of Public Against Violence and accepted the offer of the Communist Party

of Slovakia to publish Party of Democratic Socialists materials in the daily PRAVDA.

Editorial note: In this connection it is worth mentioning that I. Cibula, Ph.D., has, on his own initiative, offered to our editorial office some of his contributions as well as interviews. Of course, this is not to cast doubt on the motives of his decision.

Dubcek Views Reforms, National Issues

AU1704205090 Vienna Television Service in German 2000 GMT 17 Apr 90

[Interview with Federal Assembly Chairman Alexandr Dubcek by Alfred Schwarz in Vienna on 17 April—recorded; questions in German, Dubcek's answers in Slovak with superimposed German translation]

[Text] [Schwarz] In Western democracies the function of a parliament president is mostly just a representative function. Are you some sort of display for the outside?

[Dubcek] At present we have much work to do in parliament. Decisive laws have to be changed, and we have to establish a state that is truly based on the rule of law. The function of a parliament president in our country is a function at the highest political level, because in this function, I have to make sure that the democratic path that we have now embarked upon is safeguarded, and because now we have to establish the conditions necessary for the CSFR's entry into European society and, specifically, into the European Parliament. We have to adapt our legislation to that of the developed European countries, and this is a really big task. Therefore, it is not a representative one, but I would say that it is located at a very high level of work.

[Schwarz] How do you see the nationality conflict, which has emerged in the CSFR? The quarrel about the name of the republic probably was just the beginning of some larger conflict.

[Dubcek] Our two peoples, the Czechs and the Slovaks, need each other. We are trying to achieve integration in Europe. In this connection, it is logical that within our country we must promote cooperation between our two peoples. We have to solve the problem of the relations between the Czechs and Slovaks in line with the principle of democracy—and this is my firm conviction. This means that Czech statehood and Slovak statehood will decentralize. The central powers will decentralize, including in the economic and the political spheres.

The more this principle proves its worth in the two republics and bears fruit for the overall republic, the more the initiatives for self-administration and independent legislation can be promoted. This is what we consider to be the key.

[Schwarz] Which path will the CSFR now follow? Will unsuccessful socialism be followed by some sort of wild capitalism of upheaval?

[Dubcek] This is difficult to say. Much is being said about capitalism having stood its test and socialism not having done so. I think that what exists in the Western countries no longer is the kind of capitalism we learned about at school. The political system has changed, the economy has changed, and social policy in capitalism has also changed. I think that there really is something new. And in the Western world something is developing which no longer has anything to do with the original capitalism. Our path must now raise the prosperity of the CSFR people, but, at the same time, cultivate humanism. Original capitalism has not proved its worth, but neither has that which we called socialism.

We have to follow a new path, and this path is the path of the developed European states. This is no longer the path of original capitalism; this is something new.

Treaty on Unification Should Be Ready by May

LD1804182490 East Berlin Deutschlandsender Network in German 1700 GMT 18 Apr 90

[Text] The state treaty between the GDR and the Federal Republic on monetary, economic, and social union should be ready by the beginning of May, deputy government spokesman Vogel stated in Bonn today. The Federal Government considers it necessary in the first instance to obtain the opinion of the GDR cabinet. Informal talks are taking place on this at the moment, which are to be swiftly followed by actual negotiations.

USSR Apprises GDR of Unification Stance

LD1804170290 Hamburg DPA in German 1605 GMT 18 Apr 90

[Excerpts] East Berlin (DPA)—The Soviet Union has made it clear to the new government in East Berlin that it intends to have a decisive say in German unification and that it does not agree with all plans debated so far. The Soviet ambassador in the GDR handed over a so-called nonpaper to the new government head Lothar de Maiziere, according to information from the East Berlin ZDF [Second West German television] studio. The USSR leadership is thereby formulating, unofficially, its standpoint and explains its reservations and expectations on seven pages.

It says that Moscow opposes a rapid accession of the GDR to the Basic Law in accordance with Article 23, which the GDR Government is striving for. The Soviets clearly fear that in this way the GDR could be integrated very quickly into NATO. [passage omitted]

The background to the communication from Moscow is, according to observers, the fact that the Soviet Union also wishes to secure adherence to the comprehensive economic treaties between the two countries.

Daily Supports Moscow Policy on Lithuania

AU1904120190 East Berlin NEUES DEUTSCHLAND in German 17 Apr 90 p 2

[Frank Wehner editorial: "Blockade"]

[Text] It is not really true that Moscow's threat to impose a blockade on Lithuania came like a bolt out of the blue. It must have been clear to everybody that Gorbachev would resort to this weapon if he believed that no acceptable solution could be found in the conflict with Lithuania.

He has now done exactly that, and there is again talk of the Russian bear that attacks small countries. One can certainly raise the question as to whether all possibilities have really been exhausted before adopting such a measure. However, one must also ask the following questions:

What does Moscow want? Does it want to deprive the Lithuanians of their right to self-determination? No, it does not. It only presses for certain rules to limit the damage on the path toward inevitable independence.

Does Gorbachev reject dialogue? No, he does not. Quite the contrary. He wants to force Lithuania to talk with Moscow, because the obstinate policy of Landsbergis, who refuses to discuss the main bone of contention—the declaration of independence—has prevented dialogue so far.

"Blockade breakers" in the U.S. Senate and elsewhere, who call for sanctions and even the cancellation of the summit, should ask themselves what Washington would do if, let us say, Texas would want to play the Lithuanian piano. Would the Americans, who unscrupulously attacked independent Panama, watch this calmly?

There is a third aspect that must not be overlooked. If Gorbachev suffered a setback, this could mean his political end—a victory for those for whom the Lithuanian issue is not even a topic for discussion.

A small unstable state is to be gained. However, all hopes for a success of perestroyka and a new and better Europe might be blocked.

3d People's Chamber Session 19, 20 Apr

LD1804223390 East Berlin ADN International Service in German 2034 GMT 18 Apr 90

[Excerpts] Berlin (ADN)—The third session of the GDR People's Chamber is to take place on Thursday and Friday [19-20 April]. The People's Chamber presidium announced late this evening after its consultation on the agenda that Premier Lothar de Maiziere will first deliver his government statement tomorrow morning. A debate on the roundtable draft constitution, which was requested by the Alliance 90/Greens parliamentary group, is also planned for tomorrow. [passage omitted]

The debate on the government statement will now take place on Friday after all. [passage omitted] In the debate on Friday, spokespersons from all parliamentary groups will speak on De Maiziere's government statement.

No Official Details on Government Statement

LD1804185190 East Berlin ADN International Service in German 1751 GMT 18 Apr 90

[Text] Berlin (ADN)—Today in Berlin, the GDR Council of Ministers discussed the government statement to be presented tomorrow by Prime Minister Lothar de Maiziere at the third session of the People's Chamber.

No official details were given about the results of the consultation, which lasted several hours and which was the first meeting after the constituent cabinet session. "Nothing will be given away before tomorrow," the prime minister told journalists.

Dr. Peter-Michael Diestel, deputy premier and interior minister, did not attend the consultations because of his talks with FRG Interior Minister Schaeuble in Bonn.

Diestel Urges Rehabilitating Stasi 'Victims'

LD1804153190 East Berlin ADN International Service in German 1410 GMT 18 Apr 90

[Text] [no dateline as received]—With regard to Stasi files, German Social Union General Secretary Diestel, whose Ministry of the Interior is in fact the legal successor of the former state security service, advocated a rigorous solution. This included the rehabilitation of victims of this "mafia-like" and criminal organization. Diestel gave an assurance that the federal authorities would not be given the opportunity to look at the files and dossiers and that in the GDR there would be no witch-hunt based on this material.

Both ministers of the interior told the press they were against establishing an office for the protection of the constitution in the GDR. As long as the GDR existed, this idea is absurd. Only afterwards will this question arise.

Foreign Minister Meckel on Future Work, Policies

AU1804130890 East Berlin NEUES DEUTSCHLAND in German 14-15 Apr 90 p 5

[Interview with Foreign Minister and SPD Chairman Markus Meckel by Rainer Bekeschus and Dietmar Rietz; place and date not given]

[Text] [NEUES DEUTSCHLAND] Will you remain chairman of the Social Democratic Party of Germany?

[Meckel] I will not run again for the office of chairman at our party congress.

[NEUES DEUTSCHLAND] The struggle for the ministers' posts was great. Is all well that ends well?

[Meckel] I think that the government will be confronted with many topical and very concrete decisions that cannot be predicted. Then it will be important whether there are seven ministers or fewer who contribute their authority to the group.

[NEUES DEUTSCHLAND] Do you think that you are competent enough to be a foreign minister?

[Meckel] Yes. Of course, the apparatus is unknown to me, but this will be remedied. It could perhaps even be an advantage if one does not come directly from the diplomatic profession, but thinks in a different way. One can view the various possibilities from a different perspective; for example, in the unification process.

Minister for Disarmament, Defense Takes Office

LD1804140990 East Berlin ADN International Service in German 1116 GMT 18 Apr 90

[Text] Strausberg (ADN)—The minister for disarmament and defense of the GDR, Rainer Eppelmann, acting chairman of Democratic Awakening, took office in Strausberg today. After a warm welcome by his predecessor in the post, Admiral Theodor Hoffmann, the minister's deputies and the heads of the services of the National People's Army [NVA] were introduced to Rainer Eppelmann. Also present was the commander in chief of the Joint Armed Forces of the Warsaw Pact in the GDR, Army General Vladimir Shuralev.

There was no military welcoming ceremony at the seat of the former Ministry for National Defense, which, since the NVA was founded in 1956, has been located in this district town on the outskirts of Berlin.

After lunch with the leadership of the ministry, the 47-year-old skilled bricklayer and pastor, the youngest GDR defense minister so far, will give an international news conference this afternoon, after which he will receive the military and defense attaches of the diplomatic missions accredited in the GDR and representatives of all the ministry's departments.

Defense Minister Epplemann Surveys Major Issues

Defense Policy, Unification

AU1804121990 Vienna KURIER in German 18 Apr 90 p 3

[Interview with Defense Minister Rainer Eppelmann by Georg Fuerboeck; place and date not given: "My Most Important Objective Is Disarmament"]

[Text] [Fuerboeck] What does a pastor who was imprisoned as a draft dodger feel today as the commander of the 170,000 troops of the National People's Army [NVA]?

[Eppelmann] I do not really know yet. First of all, I am very anxious to see what I will be confronted with. I am looking forward to my work because I am responsible for the areas of disarmament and defense. "A" for Abruestung [vernacular for disarmament] comes before "V" for Verteidigung [vernacular for defense], not only in the alphabet. My most important objective is a policy which provides for further disarmament in our country.

[Fuerboeck] Will a united Germany remain in NATO?

[Eppelmann] Right now everything is in a state of flux. I can envisage very well that we will connect the Americans' plans with those of the Soviet Union. The result will be NATO membership for Germany. However, this will only be de jure membership. No NATO soldiers will be deployed in the area between the Oder and the Elbe (GDR). There will be a second German Army; that is,

the NVA. It will have a different personnel structure and leadership from the Bundeswehr. This will continue to exist until there is only one pan-European security alliance to which all states belong.... We also want to take the understandable and legitimate security interests of the Soviet Union into account.

[Fuerboeck] Do you share Premier de Maiziere's view that the exchange rate of 1:1 is the only one possible for salaries, pensions, and savings accounts up to a certain amount?

[Eppelmann] Basically, this is also my position for negotiations. One cannot burden the GDR citizen with a third devaluation of money. For he already sees himself as a person who, compared with an FRG citizen, has been punished two times. Regarding salaries, the development of prices and the GDR's general economic situation has to be taken into account.

[Fuerboeck] Will it be possible to adhere to Bonn's timetable; that is, all-German elections in autumn 1991?

[Eppelmann] I do not feel in the least inclined to specify dates. I do not want to be denounced as a demagogue or find myself under pressure. What matters is not the speed but the way in which the two German states grow together. However, economic, monetary, and social union is urgent. When the first measures become effective, the political pressure will also decrease.

[Fuerboeck] What should be the future German capital?

[Eppelmann] Because of history and emotions, I cannot envisage any other city than Berlin.

Future of NVA

AU1804103490 East Berlin NEUES DEUTSCHLAND 14-15 Apr 90 p 5

[Interview with Defense Minister Rainer Eppelmann by Rainer Bekeschus and Dietmar Rietz; place and date not given]

[Text] [NEUES DEUTSCHLAND] Will the National People's Army [NVA] continue to exist for a long time?

[Eppelmann] Of course. I do not believe that we will have a uniform army between the Oder and the Rhine relatively soon.

[NEUES DEUTSCHLAND] How large should our army be?

[Eppelmann] There are various concepts, including a size of approximately 70,000 men.

[NEUES DEUTSCHLAND] In other words, there will be no NATO soldiers east of the Elbe?

[Eppelmann] Not as long as there are two different military alliances in Europe. In other words, there will be no Bundeswehr soldiers either because they belong to NATO. Things will be completely different when there is only one alliance, irrespective of whether it is called Christmas tree, NATO, apple tree, or CSCE.

[NEUES DEUTSCHLAND] Is the Soviet Union still our alliance partner?

[Eppelmann] That is correct. Therefore, the Soviet Union's thoughts, fears, and opinion on this sensitive point must matter to us in Europe and the GDR.

Disarmament, Alliance Affliation

LD1804181190 East Berlin ADN international Service in German 1640 GMT 18 Apr 90

[Text] Strausberg (ADN)—Speaking to the international media today, Minister Rainer Eppelmann described the designation of the Ministry of Disarmament and Defense, which he leads, as a program for his future work. He said disarmament in particular has a "peace-promoting function" in which the National People's Army has a "meaningful task."

There are already leading officers who are disarmament experts "to make themselves superfluous," he said. The minister added that it is the unequivocal view of the cabinet led by Premier Lothar de Maiziere that the defense budget should be lowered. However, in the short term this would be more costly due, for example, to scrapping a tank worth between 70,000 and 90,000 marks. Here conversion is of great importance, above all for economic and social reasons. He said he is optimistic the Vienna negotiations will lead to far-reaching reductions of troops and armaments in Central Europe. He is "quite openly opposed" to worldwide, total demilitarization.

In response to a relevant question, Rainer Eppelmann said a united Germany would de jure be a NATO member. However, to link Soviet and U.S. security interests, neither a NATO nor Bundeswehr soldier would be stationed between the Elbe and Oder. A people's army would exist on the territory of present-day GDR as long as two alliances exist in Europe. As long as Allied troops are stationed between the Rhine and Elbe, Soviet troops would also be present on the territory of present-day GDR.

The minister announced that he wants to meet the commander in chief of the joint forces of the Warsaw Treaty states and the commander in chief of the western group of the USSR Armed Forces this week. This meeting would thus take place prior to the first meeting with his FRG counterpart.

In response to a further question the minister said that "in view of German history" he fully understands the "military fears" of neighbors and allies. He can also envision quite clearly that an economically strong competitor would now become even stronger. Eppelmann spoke in support of further improving German-Polish relations to "remove the last vestige of fear" from the Poles.

As far as the enemy image existing in the National People's Army and the armies of other Warsaw Treaty states was concerned, "a very great deal" had recently altered to the delight of many people. He could not imagine Vaclav Havel marching into Vienna at the head of Czechoslovak soldiers or he, Eppelmann, advancing on Cologne with the National People's Army.

He put forward the view that with military conscription every twelve months, around half of Army members would be changed around and this would again create a "closeness with the people." A professional army harbored the danger of being a "state within the state."

At the start of the news conference Eppelmann announced that on behalf of the government he had appointed Werner Ablass as state secretary, Dr Betram Wieczorek as parliamentary secretary of state and Klaus Marczinek as state secretary for disarmament. Their appointment is supposed to underline the primacy of the political element. He has appointed the former defense minister Admiral Theodor Hoffmann as chief of the National People's Army.

SPD Officials Meet, Discuss Coalition

LD1804182590 East Berlin ADN International Service in German 1645 GMT 18 Apr 90

[Text] Berlin (ADN)—The Social Democratic Party's [SPD] parliamentary group and Presidium met in Berlin today. "Complete harmony on the coalition agreement" reigned in the SPD parliamentary group. It could be fully supported from social democrat points of view, parliamentary group chairman, Richard Schroeder, announced after the group meeting at which the political situation after the formation of the coalition government with the Alliance for Germany and the League of Free Democrats was discussed. "The DSU [German Social Union] is also bound by the coalition agreement and thus obliged to be reliable, Schroeder said. The coalition agreement envisioned all coalition parliamentary groups coordinating their motions in parliament in advance.

The group meeting also dealt with staffing committees as well as personnel issues within the group. As Dr. Gottfried Timm, member of the party presidium, stated to ADN, the party executive has worked out the draft of a new local government constitution to be discussed by the parliamentary group next week. This draft is to give local government far-reaching rights, in particular sovereignty over its finances, and a strengthening local autonomy. The draft would have to passed by a debate in the People's Chamber before 6 May.

On the same day the SPD Presidium discussed the state of the local election campaign and the structure of the SPD in the GDR at its first session after the coalition agreement.

At a news conference this afternoon acting SPD chairman Markus Meckel reacted to his party's participation in the governing coalition. The process of German unity from the point of view of the pan-European process had been decisive for the SPD's participation in a coalition government with the Conservative Alliance and the Liberals. During the talks on forming a government the SPD had mainly been concerned with laying down policies in the interests of the country's people, "being present in the government in relevant strength," as well as achieving the creation of a coalition committee to settle conflicts.

In Meckel's words, after they failed to have the DSU dropped from the Alliance in the coalition talks, their main objective was to bring as many Social-Democratic positions as possible into the government coalition. Right from the start the SPD insisted they should occupy the posts of foreign minister and minister of labor and social affairs. It was the party's aim here to implement a policy which ensured that no one need fear German unity, neither the European neighbors, nor the socially weak in the GDR. Asked about continuing tensions in the party, one could not describe this as a process of diverging views. There had been cases of people leaving the party, but he only knew of isolated reports.

Asked whether he would like to see Ibrahim Boehme at the head of the party again, Markus Meckel said this decision depended not on himself but on the party and would be clarified at the special party congress in June. Since Boehme's resignation he had not yet had an opportunity to hold a talk with the ex-party chief and therefore did not wish to publicly comment on the subject. To the surprise of his party friends, Ibrahim Boehme reported back to the SPD party executive from Italy this afternoon. He told journalists that he had made a splendid recovery there. Asked whether Ibrahim Boehme would take part in tomorrow's People's Chamber session, Richard Schroeder said after the meeting of the parliamentary group that he did not know, since Boehme had not attended today's meeting.

* First GDR Commercial Bank Chief Views Tasks

90EN0466A Hamburg DIE ZEIT in German 23 Mar 90 p 30

[Interview with Edgar Most, CEO of Deutsche Kreditbank, by Bernhard Blohm and Peter Christ; place and date not given: "This Is Quite a Revolution"]

[Text] [DIE ZEIT] Mr. Most, even last year the State Bank did not acknowledge any reason for reforming the GDR's banking system. Now you have suddenly become the chief of the largest private commercial bank in the GDR, the Deutsche Kreditbank that has emerged from the State Bank. How are you handling this change?

[Most] Obviously there are considerable differences with the Federal Republic's banking system—in particular with respect to the capital market. We will have to reconsider.

[DIE ZEIT] Will you and your staff succeed in doing so?

[Most] We must, but there are bound to be transitional stages. We cannot possibly retool the entire economy of the country from one day to the next, and that also applies to the banking business.

[DIE ZFIT] What does that mean in concrete terms?

[Most] To begin with, the management, the standard form of accounts, and the balance sheet of any enterprise are givens. Our most fundamental banking transactions consist of credit transactions, pure and simple. In other words, the State Bank finances the GDR economy by means of loans within the framework of GDR legislation, and this state of affairs will have to continue for some time yet.

[DIE ZEIT] Why?

[Most] As a result of the planning system, we have issued many loans to the economy. All of these need to be repaid, or at least the necessary debt service reliably earned. However important the banking reform now adopted by the People's Chamber is, we cannot possibly begin on Day X to carry on all banking transactions here as they do in the FRG.

[DIE ZEIT] But if everything is to change over there, if the economic and currency union is to take place, will you be able to continue handling only loans and savings deposits?

[Most] You've pulled ahead a bit. Our first concern is to turn our planned banking system into a two-tiered market economy system.

[DIE ZEIT] That means an independent bank of issue and competing commercial banks, as well as savings institutions and other banks.

[Most] This is already going to be a difficult task.

[DIE ZEIT] To return to our first question, do you feel ready for this task?

[Most] If it frightened me, I would have to give up here and now. In fact, the transformation is not so radical for me as you might think. I learned the banking business from the ground up. Of course, the business transacted by the large international banks is new to me. We all will have to learn it. But we also have many good people working in our banks.

[DIE ZEIT] Federal German banks consider the GDR banking reforms to be entirely inadequate. They complain about being kept from that market. How long do you intend to keep foreign banks out? Do you feel unable to cope with their competition?

[Most] You have to look at this from all sides. Upon the enactment of the new banking legislation, the president of the State Bank is authorized—as chief of the central bank—to allow the establishment of branches by foreign banks.

[DIE ZEIT] Does the law say so?

[Most] It says that he may admit commercial banks, and therefore also foreign banks. I would certainly interpret the law that way. However, foreign banks cannot be admitted at this particular point in time.

[DIE ZEIT] Why not?

[Most] To give you an example: At the moment our businesses pay a very low interest rate for loans, only five percent. Savers are paid 3.25 percent. Foreign banks would immediately raise interest payments and charges. Many enterprises are too deeply in debt to cope with those; they might be ruined. Besides, a GDR enterprise wishing to build a foundation or a factory does not need foreign capital, it can get the money from us. If, however, Volkswagen should wish to invest in Zwickau, a West German bank or anyone else may lend them the capital. Why not?

[DIE ZEIT] And the amount that the Ifa Combine wishes to invest as the partner of VW?

[Most] We will finance that. At this time that is more efficient than having foreign capital finance our investments. Our money costs five percent; that of the foreigners costs 10 percent or more.

[DIE ZEIT] Maybe your interest rate is not the appropriate price for scarce capital?

[Most] I would not say that. We reduce loans or refuse them if the borrower is not backed by efficiency. Of course we will be confronted with fundamental decisions when the structure of our economy and our currency is changed. Whether proper investment projects will then be available...

[DIE ZEIT] ...in other words enterprises worthy of investment.

[Most] We will have to search for them. We will have to calculate our risks so that we do not invest in the wrong places. We are therefore entirely in favor of quickly settling the outlines, so that we may know where we stand. And that depends crucially on the question of the progress made with respect to the economic and currency union. This will decide everything. For us that will be the critical day.

[DIE ZEIT] Including the admission of foreign banks to the GDR?

[Most] In my view, the beginning of the economic and currency union will be the latest date for the admission of foreign banks.

[DIE ZEIT] Such a union is most likely to happen this year. Will a few months be enough to make the new GDR banks competitive?

[Most] I believe it will. Currently we are involved with large loans in the financing of production in all GDR enterprises. Any foreign bank wishing to finance a GDR enterprise will have to weigh its situation. It will then

realize that many firms have large liabilities, and, when assessing solvency, it will have to estimate the risk of extending credit. This will not be easy for a foreign bank. We know our enterprises, and though this advantage cannot be quantified, it is a fact.

[DIE ZEIT] Might this advantage not be reversed after the introduction of the economic and currency union? Does not the Deutsche Kreditbank run the risk of having a lot of defaults on its balance sheet?

[Most] That is our assessment, too. As the successor in title of the old State Bank we are compelled to take on a large proportion of loans that virtually amount to state loans. In other words, the state rather than the new commercial bank will necessarily continue to be liable.

[DIE ZEIT] What are the amounts involved?

[Most] Quite some billions. The new commercial bank will not be able to take on such credit risks. Incidentally, that is another reason for us to set up the bank in two stages. To begin with we will merely establish the formation capital. This will be followed by a re-formation, and at that time we will present an opening account.

[DIE ZEIT] Who actually are the formation partners of the Deutsche Kreditbank?

[Most] According to the Law on Corporations we require five founding partners. In the formation stage, the State Bank will be the partner that will make available the lion's share of the capital. That, though, will be for a transitional period only. In the long run, the central bank cannot be a stockholder in a commercial bank. The GDR law therefore requires that others enter the scene quite quickly. Other founding partners will come from business.

[DIE ZEIT] Can you conceive that, in the long run, there may be capital interlocking between the Deutsche Kreditbank and a foreign or Federal German bank?

[Most] Not at the time of the initial formation, but such a possibility cannot be excluded for the future. However, that is a discussion about the next stages. At the moment we are about to take the first two steps. That in itself amounts to a revolution.

[Box, p 30]

Edgar Most—Personal Data

The banker was born in 1940 in Thuringia and has had an impressive career. In 1954 he started as an apprentice at the Deutsche Notenbank, the predecessor of the present GDR State Bank. By 1967 he had advanced to a directorship. In Schwedt (Oder), he helped build up the Petrochemical Center. Most remembers that, at the time he was the only branch manager in Europe to work in felt boots and a quilted jacket, because at the beginning "his" bank was just an unheated wooden shack on a giant construction site. In 1975 he was appointed section manager at the State Bank head office in Berlin. Edgar Most dealt with international firms in Schwedt in the 1960's, when he negotiated the financing of major industrial projects. In his free time Most studied at Berlin's Humboldt University and graduated with a degree in economics. Not until the beginning of this year was Most appointed first vice president of the State Bank—and now he has taken on the management of the newly established Deutsche Kreditbank.

Former Construction Minister Found Hanged

AU1804103890 Hamburg BILD in German 18 Apr 90 pp 1, 4

[Hennes Schulz report: "Honecker's Construction Minister Found Hanged in Basement"]

[Excerpt] East Berlin—Wolfgang Junker (61), who advanced from a simple mason to construction minister, was considered Honecker's darling within the Socialist Unity Party of Germany (now Party of Democratic Socialism). During his 26 years in office, he did nothing to prevent the decay of beautiful old buildings and had ugly satellite colonies constructed. After the changes that occurred during the fall of 1989, the general prosecuting attorney instituted investigations against him on charges of abuse of office and corruption. Now Wolfgang Junker has drawn his own conclusions: He hanged himself in the basement of his bungalow.

Former Minister Junker, who was responsible for the construction of hideous blocks of apartments for 1.9 million families, preferred to live in a spacious bungalow in East Berlin's Gruenau residential area. His house and garden are hidden behind two-meter-high hedges. Last week the father of two daughters went to the basement with a rope and hanged himself from a pipe. His wife found the body in the evening. [passage omitted]

Antall Denies Threatening FRG TV Newsman

LD1804151190 Budapest MTI in English 1314 GMT 18 Apr 90

[Text] Budapest, April 18 (MTI)—The Hungarian papers also carried the story printed in DER SPIEGEL that Jozsef Antall, president of the Hungarian Democratic Forum, allegedly sent a threatening letter to a reporter from the West German TV company ARD after the newsman asked him about nationalism and anti-semitism and how they affected his party.

Speaking to MTI's correspondent, Antall categorically denied the allegation.

He said he sent no such letter to Dr Eberherd Buessem, the TV reporter in question.

As Gabor Spann, ARD's correspondent and himself of Hungarian descent, was a mediator in the live broadcast in Munich between Antall, two other Hungarian politicians—Ferenc Koszeg and Imre Pozsgay—and the TV company, Antall asked Spann to notify Buessem that, because time was pressing, he could not go into detail about his ideas there and then, but he would be willing to do so at some other time.

Since then, Antall met the West German reporter during the second round of the Hungarian elections, and the relationship between the two, as Antall put it, is absolutely correct.

There is no question of any misunderstanding, let alone the threat DER SPIEGEL referred to.

In a telephone interview to MAGYAR HIRLAP, Gabor Spann stated he was not familiar with the source which informed DER SPIEGEL—obviously erroneously.

"It forwarded only the message, but no sort of letter," Spann said.

Nemeth Receives Japanese Business Delegation

LD1804214690 Budapest MTI in English 1918 GMT 18 Apr 90

[Text] Budapest, April 18 (MTI)—As a result of earlier economic reforms, the transition to a market economy in Hungary is taking place on solid foundations. Hungary has the means to build close ties both with the East and West, it was said by Kisaburo Ikeura, chairman of the Japanese Industry Bank, who was speaking to Hungarian Prime Minister Miklos Nemeth.

Mr Ikeura, head of the visiting Japanese business delegation, also spoke in appreciation of the favourable effect generated in East Europe by changes taking place in Hungary, and expressed his readiness to urge Japanese business circles to take an active part in advancing this process.

A letter by Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu was handed over to Mr Nemeth, in which Mr Kaifu emphasizes the importance of the situation of Hungary's economy, its long-term development and the studying of investment opportunities in Hungary. The mission of the present business delegation also serves this end.

Mr Nemeth expressed his satisfaction over the efforts by Japanese business and government circles in developing ties building on long-term interests, and also expressed his conviction that the new Hungarian Government will prove to be an active partner in these efforts.

Election Result in Budapest District 'Invalidated'

LD1804220990 Budapest Domestic Service in Hungarian 2000 GMT 18 Apr 90

[Text] [Announcer] The courts are investigating the results of several individual electoral districts following complaints by various parties. A decision was made in a Budapest case today. Miklos Attila Nemeth reports:

[Nemeth] There is no parliamentary deputy from the 11th electoral district of Budapest at the moment. Today's decree by the metropolitan court invalidated the victory of Miklos Haraszti, representative of the Alliance of Free Democrats [SZDSZ], on the grounds that the vote counting commitee committed several irregularities and violations of law.

For example, in the minutes they mixed up the recording of certain bundles of votes to the detriment of Laszlo Ferenc Marothi, the Hungarian Democratic Forum [MDF] candidate. The court also discovered valid votes for the MDF candidate among the votes declared invalid. In light of all this, the court ordered the district election committee to announce a new result. This will take place on Friday afternoon.

Szuros Plans To Request MSZP Membership

LD1804212590 Budapest MTI in English 1802 GMT 18 Apr 90

[Text] Budapest, April 18 (MTI)—After the expiry of my term in office as head of state, nothing will hinder me from requesting membeship in the Hungarian Socialist Party (HSP) [MSZP], MTI was told by Matyas Szuros, interim president of the Republic of Hungary, who was speaking at the ceremony held on the occasion of receiving his parliamentary mandate.

Mr Szuros said, as an MP [member of parliament] he wishes to continue his work for the better of the country and the nation, possibly holding an office in parliament.

Parties Agree on Assembly Agenda Issues

LD1804194690 Budapest Domestic Service in Hungarian 1600 GMT 18 Apr 90

[Text] Experts from the parties that won seats in the new democratic parliament have agreed that the speaker of the house will also be the new interim president of the Republic. They also agreed on the agenda of the two-day session of parliament, which begins on 2 May. More from Peter Szoerenyi:

[Begin Szoerenyi recording] A Hungarian Democratic Forum deputy will be our new interim president of the Republic. According to the parliamentary standing orders, the speaker of parliament will perform the tasks of the interim head of state.

The experts also agreed that the new National Assembly will have three deputy speakers and six clerks. While my report is being broadcast, those who are present are debating which of the three deputy speakers should be charged with holding the position of interim speaker of the house. By the way, it is felt that this will be a deputy from Alliance of Free Democrats.

This, naturally, will be only a transitional situation, until the permanent president of the Republic is elected. Nonetheless, agreements have been reached. It appears decided that the deputies from the Christian Democratic People's Party will sit in the most outlying benches on the right, while on the other side the ranks will be closed by the independent deputies. The compromise was not reached easily here, since the Hungarian Socialist Party [MSZP] did not want, as they put it, to end up in the far left; in the end, Istvan Fodor on behalf of the independents solved the problem in the way described. True, he quietly mentioned that up to now the MSZP has been very proud of its left-wing stance.

It appears that the experts now will accept all 15 points of the agenda of the two-day constitutent session. There are only two interesting points among these: One is Vince Voros will deliver a speech on the constitutionality which has been restored. He, by the way, was one of the clerks in the last multiparty parliament. Another point is that four young deputies from the Federation of Young Democrats will check the deputies' mandates, and perhaps the youngest one, in this case who is 23 years old, will report to the esteemed house on this. [end recording]

Tolgyessy Elected SZDSZ Parliamentary Leader

LD1804213190 Budapest MTI in English 1830 GMT 18 Apr 90

[Text] Budapest, April 18 (MTI)—At the Wednesday founding session of the Alliance of Free Democrats' parliamentary faction, Peter Tolgyessy was elected leader of the faction and Ivan Peto as his deputy.

The AFD's [SZDSZ] faction consists of 94 members, given that the AFD's own 92 MPs were joined by an MP of the AFD-FYD [FIDESZ] (Federation of Young Democrats) and an MP elected jointly by the Agrarian Federation and the Alliance for the Village and Countryside.

Speaking to MTI's journalist Mr Tolgyessy said the AFD, being the largest opposition party in parliament, should be capable of filling the role of a critical opposition and to prove their ability to become a governing party any at time, simultaneously.

The AFD's faction is planning to table a number of independent motions, what is more it is ready to present some bills and plans of action. The scope of action by the AFD's parliamentary faction and the party's leadership has been clearly defined and separated.

The issue of candidates to be nominated for various offices in parliament was also on the agenda of the discussions, but it would be too early at this stage to make public any related ideas, since further inter-party coordination is required, Mr Tolgyessy said.

FIDESZ Unhappy With Role in Government

LD1804225490 Budapest Domestic Service in Hungarian 2000 GMT 18 Apr 90

[Text] The Federation of Young Democrats [FIDESZ] does not understand the proposal of the Democratic Forum, according to which the future government wishes to allocate important expert positions for FIDESZ as a coalition partner.

In their statement, the FIDESZ Board stresses that they consider this unacceptable, not only because they want to involve themselves in governing responsibly in such a way that they will not be able to influence the work of the government in real terms, but also because in their view the professional posts of state administration should be filled exclusively according to professional suitability and not according to party affiliation.

Smallholders Vying for Parliament Portfolios

Torgyan on Parliament Posts

LD1804230290 Budapest Domestic Service in Hungarian 1600 GMT 18 Apr 90

[Text] Jozsef Torgyan, chief prosecutor of the Independent Smallholders' Party [FKGP], has been elected leader of the party's parliamentary section. According to Jozsef Torgyan, the Smallholders will demand total freedom of action in the esteemed house in dealing with questions of agriculture. Janos Hollos interviewed Jozsef Torgyan:

[Begin recording] [Torgyan] We have proposed chairman of the FKGP, Vince Voros, for the post of deputy speaker of the National Assembly. Besides this, the group of parliamentary deputies made personnel decisions, according to which I have become leader of the faction, and Dr. Istvan Borocz has been elected deputy chairman of the faction.

[Hollos] What kind of cooperation would you like to form with, let's say, the Hungarian Democratic Forum [MDF]?

[Torgyan] Our guiding principle will be constructiveness, as it has been up to now.

[Hollos] Was there mention of which committee you would like to play a leading part in?

[Torgyan] Certainly, we have discussed this question, too. We demand control over the committees of internal security, justice and agriculture by all means, and in the matter

of the composition of further committees we will make decisions later.

[Hollos] If I understand correctly, the FKGP would like to get hold of both the agricultural portfolio in the government and the leading post in the parliamentary committee, controlling agricultural matters. This means that you would like to decide on all questions concerning agriculture.

[Torgyan] We would like to deal with every kind of activity in connection with agriculture from the lowest to the highest level, you are right.

[Hollos] Are you ready to accept a compromise, according to which, let's say, the leading role in agricultural matters would belong to the MDF in the parliament, and to you in the government?

[Torgyan] As I told you, we claim total freedom of action in the area of agriculture, which means that the post of chairman of the agricultural committee should be ours. [end recording]

State Security Committee Post

LD1804194590 Budapest MTI in English 1745 GMT 18 Apr 90

[Text] Budapest, April 18 (MTI)—Jozsef Torgyan was elected on Wednesday as leader of the parliamentary faction of the Independent Smallholders' Party. A decision was also reached to nominate the party's president, Vince Voros, to the post of deputy speaker of the parliament, subject to the outcome of the ongoing coalition discussions.

Speaking to newsmen Mr Torgyan reported that his party would like to obtain one of the deputy speaker of parliament's positions by all means. From among the standing committee posts they aspire for the office of chairman of the State Security Committee by all means, since they consider that the Hungarian Democratic Forum has the greatest chance of retaining the offices of prime minister and president of the Republic as well. In addition it can be expected that the Alliance of Free Democrats—as the second largest party—will delegate the speaker of the parliament.

The smallholders are set on winning the post of chairman of the State Security Committee because if they failed to do so they would feel left out of the control of power. The party is also insisting on the posts of chairman of the agricultural and legal-justice parliamentary standing committees.

Agriculture Portfolio

LD1804223190 Budapest Domestic Service in Hungarian 2000 GMT 18 Apr 90

[Text] The Hungarian Democratic Forum [MDF] and the Independent Smallholders' Party [FKGP] have said, in a joint statement, that they mutually accept one another's agricultural draft programs as a basis for coalition talks, and they see the possibility of reconciling these programs. On this basis, they ask the ministers of justice and agriculture to work out a quickly realizable law serving the rehabilitation of landed property. The MDF deputy chairman said his party is leaning toward recognizing the Smallholders Party's demand for the agriculture portfolio. The fate of the other ministries' leading positions remains on the agenda of the coordinating talks. The MDF, by the way, conceives the distribution of the ministerial portfolios as being in proportion to the parliamentary mandates, and it feels that in the current phase of coalition talks, there should be minimum publicity.

Independent MP's Hold Founding Session

LD1804212890 Budapest MTI in English 1804 GMT 18 Apr 90

[Text] Budapest, April 18 (MTI)—The six-strong group of independent MPs [members of parliament] held their founding session in parliament on Wednesday. Istvan Fodor was assigned to represent the group at the expert level discussions by various parties in parliament.

Nemeth Hosts Lunch for Church Leaders

LD1804193490 Budapest MTI in English 1709 GMT 18 Apr 90

[Text] Budapest, April 18 (MTI)—A gala lunch was hosted by Prime Minister Miklos Nemeth on Wednesday, in honour of the leaders of various churches in Hungary.

Mr Nemeth expressed his thanks in the name of his government, shortly to leave office, for the support rendered by leaders of church communities in implementing the government' new church policy. Mr Nemeth spoke in appreciation about the role of the churches and religious orders in the peaceful institution of the changes of system.

Cardinal Primate Laszlo Paskai, archbishop of Esztergom, expressed his confidence that the process launched by the government concerning the churches will be successfully advanced also by the new government. Cardinal Paskai spoke about the significance of the freedom regained by the churches, which are now free to operate according to their internal laws. Among the issues to be solved, the cardinal mentioned the former estates of the churches which were taken into state ownership, cultural, social and educational aspects of church activity, including the issue of religious education in public schools.

Karoly Toth, bishop of the Reformed church, president of the Ecumenic Council of the churches of Hungary, also shared the view that the recent parliamentary elections and their results are very encouraging. The manifesto of all parties in general include positive church policy notions, the bishop said.

Alfred Schoner, president of the National Council of Rabbis, said he is particularly pleased that during the election campaign, The Christian Democratic People's Party distanced itself from the one-time established, ill-fated Christian order, and that it holds as achievable the ideological aims—founding on religious beliefs—which are formulated on common interests rather than at the expense of others.

OKP Offers 'Good Offices' in Lithuania Dialogue

LD1804175290 Warsaw PAP in English 1455 GMT 18 Apr 90

[Text] Warsaw, April 18—Following is the text of a statement issued by the OKP Citizen's Parliamentary Floor Group during its session here today:

"For a dozen-so days we have been witnessing a growing pressure on Poland's north-eastern neighbour Lithuania aimed at forcing it to annul its declaration of independence, a declaration being in tune with the binding Constitution of the USSR. "Despite the fact that the nation and authorities of Lithuania have been following their road to sovereignty in a peaceful way and in spite of their repeated proposals to start a dialogue with Moscow, economic restrictions, aimed at forcing the 3-million-resident country to obedience, were introduced three days ago. "Poland, a country loving freedom for which it has often had to pay the highest price throughout the history, cannot indifferently watch the threat to the rights to freedom in any other country. The more so, at the moment when there exist an enormous disproportion of forces and crushing material supremacy on one side.

"We are of the opinion that Lithuania's declaration of peaceful dialogue with the Soviet Union should be supported with all possible means as well as we should resolutely protest against the method of threats and blackmail which should finally be put away to the shameful past of Europe.

"Members of the Citizen's Parliamentary Floor Group, gathered on April 18, 1990, are addressing the Government of the Republic of Poland for forwarding an offer of good offices mission in the negotiations between Lithuania and the authorities of the Soviet Union," the statement reads.

Onyszkiewicz on Talks at Soviet Defense Ministry

AU1904124190 Warsaw ZOLNIERZ RZECZYPOSPOLITEJ in Polish 17 Apr 90 pp 1, 3

[Interview with National Defense Vice Minister Janusz Onyszkiwicz by unidentified ZOLNIERZ RZECZYPOSPOLITEJ reporter; place and date not given: "Talks in the Soviet Defense Ministry"]

[Text] [ZOLNIERZ] On Friday, 13 April, while Wojciech Jaruzelski and Mikhail Gorbachev were holding tete-a-tete talks, you were holding talks in the Soviet Defense Ministry.

[Onyszkiewicz] Yes. Together with Division General Franciszek Puchala, chief of the Polish Army General Staff; and Division General Mieczyslaw Debicki, Polish Government plenipotentiary for the deployment of Soviet forces in Poland; we held a talk with the leadership of the USSR National Defense Ministry. The Soviet side consisted of Army General Dmitriy Yazov, national defense minister; Army General Mikhail Moiseyev, chief of the General Staff; Army General Petr Lushev, commander in chief of the Joint Armed Forces of the Warsaw Pact; and Army General Aleksey Lizichev, chief of the Main Political Directorate of the Soviet Army and Navy.

[ZOLNIERZ] What did you talk about?

[Onyszkiewicz] We talked about, among other things, the situation within the Warsaw Pact in connection with the changes in East Europe. We also discussed the current Vienna talks on the reduction of armed forces and armaments in Central Europe and the deployment of Soviet forces in Poland. The Soviet Defense Ministry leadership understood our problems. One can even say they met our views halfway. We agreed, among other things, that those Soviet units which cause the greatest disturbance for the local population will be withdrawn from Poland.

[ZOLNIERZ] Could you give a few details?

[Onyszkiewicz] These were just preliminary decisions for the time being. We will return to this topic soon.

[ZOLNIERZ] Thank you very much.

Walesa on Solidarity Direction, Jaruzelski

PM1904075890 Paris LE MONDE in French 18 Apr 90 pp 1,4

[Interview with Solidarity Chairman Lech Walesa by Marian Nowak in Gdansk—date not given]

[Text] Gdansk—[Nowak] What do you expect from this congress [the second Solidarity congress starting 19 April] and what changes could it make in the trade union?

[Walesa] In my view, we must first establish full democracy in all our structures because, when I look around me, I am afraid that a new monopoly will be created. Many of our members, once they sit in an armchair, tend to cling to it and believe they cannot be moved. We must therefore find ways of countering this situation.

As regards our policy toward the government, we must finally and clearly state that we will support all its decisions, provided we approve of them. If we do not approve of them, we must clearly say what we think, even if it leads us to adopt a different stance from that of the government. But let us make things clear: This certainly does not mean that we want to bring down the government! It is simply that after this congress we want to return to being one thing—a trade union which is more determined, defending the workers' interests and, at the same time, forcing the government to pursue a just policy. Some of us—a minority—think that Solidarity ought to be a more political organization, whereas the majority—including me—thinks that it ought to be used to defend the workers. It is possible that, initially, we

should support the current political process for a time, but we will gradually withdraw into a purely trade union role.

[Nowak] Aren't you afraid that the coexistence of two concepts will cause problems or even divisions within Solidarity during the congress?

[Walesa] I am aware that that is a danger which awaits us.

If the pressure to turn the trade union into a political organization is too strong, perhaps we will have to create a new trade union. But even if that were the case, I think that this threat could only take shape after the congress. We might then be forced to create a workers' trade union along the line of the farmers' trade union.

General Jaruzelski's Chances

[Nowak] How do you assess Gen. Jaruzelski's chances of remaining president of the republic until next spring?

[Walesa] Many people think that it is a very good thing that the president should do nothing, should not work. I understand that such a situation pleases those who want to keep the post or position they have acquired. But we must ask the question in these terms: Does this benefit Poland? I personally think it does not. I am well aware that, in the name of common sense, some people are saying that the time has not yet come, that we are not yet free, that Soviet troops are still deployed in our country, and so forth. I know all that. But, if we accept that viewpoint, it would be enough for that president to become a Solidarity member to have an idyllic picture. I do not share that view. How do you explain to the wives and mothers of the Silesian miners (Footnote) (Reference to the Wujek miners killed by the forces of order when martial law was introduced in December 1981) that the president has converted?

[Nowak] Do you think that Prime Minister Mazowiecki's proposal to hold early elections next spring is too much of a delay?

[Walesa] I certainly do not want anything I say about my possible candidacy for the presidency to be interpreted as haste prompted by the fact that I knew Tadeusz Mazowiecki was more popular than me and was afraid that he would try to oust me. I realize that some people see things in this way, but our country has no shortage of envious people and I therefore do not want to attack anything. However, I cannot remain silent when something annoys me...and this all puts me in a tricky situation.

[Nowak] Do you think that the Poles are really calling for Gen. Jaruzelski's resignation?

[Walesa] Yes, I think that there is deep social discontent about the fact that the president is doing nothing, that he comes from a different era, that that era belongs to the past, and that he is operating according to old rules. In saying that, I can already hear the so-called wisemen explaining that that is a good thing and that, by doing nothing, he is allowing the government to work. But my view is different: If the president cooperated with the council of ministers, we could take more effective and more rapid action. The model toward which I am leaning is that of a president who stimulates the process of change.

[Nowak] But would Gen. Jaruzelski's departure not be likely to destroy a fragile balance?

[Walesa] If we take into account the interests of the USSR and the Warsaw Pact, it is clear that Gen. Jaruzelski is a man who is trusted, he is the military alliance's man. Of course, from this viewpoint, if we fear the consequences of a change in the country's leadership, it is better to maintain the existing balance. It is a very difficult question to which I do not know the answer.

The Social Climate Is Bad

[Nowak] Recently, every time you have mentioned the possibility of running for president, you have said that you were being pushed into it by the slow pace of the reforms.

[Walesa] That is the situation. The president should support and help the prime minister to speed up change. There are people who, after they came to power, sank into self-satisfaction and have forgotten that the deputies and government were jeered by the workers at the Gdansk shipyards. Of course, the predominant opinion is that the government's decisions are good, but the man in the street does not see the results of that. We have already done a great deal in Poland, but we have not built a system of guarantees, an effective protection against a new monopoly. The victory is a huge one, but the workers did not derive any benefit from it; it may be that we are not capable of giving it to them because we are likely to run out of time.

[Nowak] What do you think is the Poles' state of mind, how do you judge the social climate?

[Walesa] It is bad, very bad. That is why the situation is not good; it is not disastrous but we must work together to solve our problems otherwise things are likely to turn out badly. We are already witnessing attacks on some ministers, on the ruling coalition. There is a ridiculous situation in which parties which no longer exist, like the Polish United Workers' Party [PZPR], are represented in the government. The same is true in parliament. It is a kind of illegal situation. All this influences people's thinking.

[Nowak] Do you have confidence in the Mazowiecki government?

[Walesa] Even if I became president, I would be 99.9 percent likely to appoint Tadeusz Mazowiecki as prime minister because, in this transitional period, Poland needs his calm attitude, his tone, his way of doing things. However, I must add one thing: He is somebody who

needs to be stimulated, he has to be pushed to keep up a particular pace, otherwise he tends to slow down. I am therefore trying to spur him on on some problems.

[Nowak] How do you view the question of unification between the two German states?

[Walesa] This is a particularly delicate question because many people in Poland are using the Germans as a threat, a tool to frighten people. In my view, instead of frightening people, we must build a security system. The whole of Europe and the world should guarantee that the Germans will never destabilize things again.

Walesa: Congress To Deal With Organization

LD1904124490 Warsaw PAP in English 1220 GMT 19 Apr 90

[Text] Gdansk, April 19—The Solidarity trade union opened its 2nd national congress today. In an opening speech, Lech Walesa stressed that the meeting would deal with organizational affairs of Solidarity and would map out a programme of the union.

The Solidarity leader welcomed the guests with Prime Minister Tadeusz Mazowiecki being among them.

Weekly on SdRP's Adoption of PZPR Assets

AU1804143290 Warsaw TYGODNIK SOLIDARNOSC in Polish 13 Apr 90 p 4

[Jerzy Szczesny article: "A Bit of a Scandal"]

[Text] The government commission charged with establishing the legal assets of political parties and youth organizations, and salvaging state property, has concluded its work. The commission was aided by a team consisting of representatives of the Council of Ministers Office, Finance Ministry, and Office of the Government Plenipotentiary for Changes in Ownership. The commission held a total of 18 plenary meetings.

The commission's work mainly involved establishing the property of the parties of the old regime, as well as their right to use the premises occupied by them. The commission's 12-page report boiled down to one statement, the most important one: "Buildings, premises, and facilities built out of the former Polish United Workers' Party's [PZPR] own funds and standing on freehold land are henceforth the property of the Social Democracy of the Republic of Poland [SdRP]."

The work of the commission lasted over 2 months. If it had consulted the Civil Code, 15 minutes would have been adequate.

Article 44c of this code states precisely who may hold property within the framework of civil law. This article makes no mention of political organizations such as parties. However, Article 33, paragraph 1 defines who a legal person is, and it is clear that political parties do not have legal personality.

In accordance with the law in force in the Polish People's Republic, and now in the Polish Republic, there is no way in which the old PZPR and allied parties could acquire property, because they lacked a legal personality as defined in the Civil Code.

Let us go back for a minute to the beginnings of the Polish People's Republic. When, in a circular dated 24 October 1946, the public administration minister ruled that the law on associations does not apply to the political parties represented in the National People's Council, all he wanted was to perpetuate in Poland the political system of Moscow. The unintentional effect of this circular, designed to stop society from creating any other parties than those in the National People's Council, was to deprive parties of a legal personality. That situation continues today, and an organization that has no legal personality cannot in any way be the owner of property. Therefore, all the entries in land registers concerning parties are a mistake.

One can see that the government commission held a different view, because its entire work consisted of drawing up inventories of the assets of parties and allowing some of these assets to remain with their previous users. However, the commission's decisions were clearly political, not legal.

We read in the report: "The decisions of the government commission were reached on the basis of the law in force and the principle whereby the state should not create a material basis for the existence of any party." Unfortunately, this is an empty statement. There was already talk of the law in force earlier. As far as creating a material basis for the existence of a party is concerned, one must say that the commission has in fact created such a basis for the parties of the old regime.

"The work of the Commission is a test of political culture," said Minister Aleksander Hall at a news conference. Is it correct political culture in AD 1990 for the commission to give the PZPR's ideological heirs two vacation centers built on state-owned land? Is it correct political culture that the disproportions in the material situation of different parties could only be restricted, but not eliminated altogether? Why not?

"The material base of the former PZPR and its allies has only been restricted, but the restriction has been considerable, and is the price to be paid for the fact that the commission acted within the law," someone said at the news conference. For whom and by whom is this price to be paid? By what legal and moral right do the old parties retain the materially privileged situation which Minister Hall was so kind to let them keep?

I do not conceal my shame at the decisions of the commission, and I am probably not the only one who feels this way. I foresee a general feeling of disappointment among a patient society. However, patience has its limits. I fear that the commission's decisions, having no chance of society's acceptance, will not only fail to close the question of the property of parties of the old regime,

but will cause an escalation of social demands to seize the property of those who earned more than their fair share from communism.

Justice Minister on Destruction of Secret Files

AU1804163990 Warsaw TYGODNIK SOLIDARNOSC in Polish 13 Apr 90 p 11

[Interview with Justice Minister Aleksander Bentkowski by Marek A. Nowicki; place and date not given: "A Mass of Problems"]

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] [Nowicki] We are encountering a scandal these days. Various cells of the Internal Affairs Ministry are destroying their files. What do you say to that?

[Bentkowski] Soon after I became justice minister, I created a department responsible for investigating Stalinist crimes against Poles and crimes by Poles against Poles during the period 1946-54. Generals Kiszczak and Siwicki gave me access to files which no one had been allowed to see before. I asked General Kiszczak to stop the destruction of files. However, there are still files to which we have no access, very important files from the viewpoint of the implementation of justice. They are Security Service operational files from the period in question. Access to one such file, pertaining to the People's Guard activist Wiatr, who was murdered in 1946, was recently denied in Krakow. This file was asked for by no less a person than a court judge. This refusal is an absolute scandal. The prosecutor's office and the courts must have the right to consult such files without restriction.

[Nowicki] The same thing applies to modern Security Service files.

[Bentkowski] I think Minister Kozlowski will see to it that the destruction stops.

[Nowicki] We know that this is not just a simple case of throwing out unwanted paper, it is a case of destroying evidence of crimes.

[Bentkowski] If I discover who is destroying files, we will deal with them in accordance with article 352 of the criminal code, for destroying evidence of crimes. I wish to make that very clear.

[Nowicki] We will take your word for it.

Sejm Changes Agenda, Discusses State Tribunal

LD1804194990 Warsaw PAP in English 1649 GMT 18 Apr 90

[Text] Warsaw, April 18—Sejm (lower house of Polish parliament) met here today for a session the agenda of which was considerably changed at the last moment: the first reading of the draft amendment to the housing law was adjourned to another sitting.

The Sejm, following a motion by chairman of the PSL "O", Polish Peasants' party "Rebirth", caucus Jozef Zych, resolved to adjourn also the second reading of the bill on establishing an agricultural market agency. It was stressed that there were chances for solving controversial problems discussed yesterday by Premier Tadeusz Mazowiecki and the PSL "O" deputies before the next sitting.

During today's meeting the Sejm heard the first reading of draft amendments to the law on Tribunal of State. It is assumed in the draft that the right to call the president before the tribunal of State will be exclusively vested in the National Assembly. It is also proposed to define the procedure of constitutional accountability of, among other officials, ministers of state and members of the state Defence Committee. Deputy Andrzej Kern (OKP, Citizen's Parliamentary Floor Group), who presented the bill, remarked that the amendments were not prepared with any reference to a concrete president, premier or minister.

During the sitting, deputy Jozefa Hennel (OKP) informed the house that the OKP issued today a statement in connection with the latest developments in Lithuania.

Envoy to France Said To Have Monarchist Contacts

PM1904084890 Paris LE MONDE in French 18 Apr 90 p 3

[Unattributed report: "Ambassador to Paris Recalled for Consultations Had Contacts with Monarchists"]

[Text] Ambassador to France Alexandru Paleologu left Paris on Monday, 16 April, for Bucharest after being recalled by his government. Silviu Brucan, who is regarded as the new Romanian regime's eminence grise, although he no longer has official functions, and who is himself a former ambassador to Washington and the United Nations, told LE MONDE on the telephone that Mr. Paleologu had been recalled because he had had contacts with monarchist circles and even with King Michael.

"In the new Romanian democracy, Mr. Paleologu has the right, for instance, to right-wing monarchist views and to meet with people who share those opinions," Mr. Brucan said. "But the situation is completely different for an ambassador, who is supposed to represent a government. From this viewpoint, I think that Mr. Paleologu has violated a fundamental rule." Has the ambassador been recalled for consultations or permanently? "I do not know what will be the result of his talks in Bucharest," Mr. Brucan replied. Speaking on French television channel five on Thursday, the ambassador had said he regarded Mr. Roman as "rather young" and he wondered whether the Romanian prime minister had "sufficient political maturity" to "be able to run a complicated government in a chaotic period."

Mr. Paleologu told television channel five at the airport that the purpose of his criticisms was to make some "official" Romanian "attitudes" "more accessible to French public opinion." The ambassador "believes" that he will return to France: "It is a subjective impression and perhaps rather optimistic," he explained.

In Bucharest, there were clashes on Monday between pro-monarchist and anti-monarchist demonstrators in two parts of the city. King Michael, the former Romanian sovereign, had planned to spend Easter in Romania. His visit was banned at the last minute on Thursday. Furthermore, Prime Minister Petre Roman arrived in Madrid in the early evening on Monday for a two-day official visit to Spain.

Roman Continues Official Visit to Spain

Meets Business Representatives

AU1804143490 Bucharest ROMPRES in English 0823 GMT 18 Apr 90

[Text] Bucharest, ROMPRES, 18/4/1990—Romanian Premier Petre Roman met Tuesday afternoon in Madrid a delegation of the Employers Confederation (CEOE), an organization representing the Spanish enterprises.

The talks covered specific ways of cooperation between Spanish enterprises and Romanian firms and the possibilities to initiate concrete action apt to materialize the common wish to surpass the symbolic framework of economic relations, considering the complementarity of the two countries' economies in the new legal framework concerning foreign investments in Romania as well.

Discusses Cultural, Economic Cooperation

AU1804182590 Bucharest ROMPRES in English 1714 GMT 18 Apr 90

[Text] Bucharest, ROMPRES, 18/4/1990—In an interview with the EFE News Agency, Romanian Prime Minister Petre Roman stated that his official visit in Spain would materialize not only in economic agreements but also in cultural ones. The Romanian premier showed that the Romanian Government had approved the tuition of Spanish as one of the major foreign languages to be studied in Romanian secondary schools. In order to support that initiative, the Spanish minister of culture, Jorge Semprun, expressed Spain's wish to send a large amount of books to Romania, said Petre Roman.

As for the economic cooperation, the Romanian prime minister stressed the importance of Spanish enterprises' participation in certain joint development programs and mentioned a number of domains offerring possibilities of immediate collaboration, such as tourism, light industry, power engineering and chemistry.

Madrid News Conference

AU1904091190 Bucharest Domestic Service in Romanian 1920 GMT 18 Apr 90

[Statement by Premier Petre Roman at news conference in Madrid on 18 April—recorded, in Spanish with superimposed translation into Romanian]

[Text] I would like to express our feelings of profound gratitude for everything that we have accomplished in these less than two days, things which are very important for Romania and for the Romanian people, because, as I have already mentioned, in Romania there is real affection among the Romanian people for the Spanish people, and we, as messengers of the Romanian people to the Spanish people, have come with these wishes to express our affection.

We held talks with the prime minister of the Spanish Government, Felipe Gonzales, and as he was kind enough to mention that our relations are exemplary. This means that we held very open and frank talks, and thus each side had the opportunity to clarify the points that have not always been very clear, and, in this way, we proceeded toward a road that we believe is better, or the best for both sides and for the policy of both countries, which is democracy, a policy of democracy, and democracy is unique.

Romania's road toward democracy is irreversible, and I believe that it is also very (?real). The elections that will take place soon, regardless of their results, will have to take into account the will of the Romanian people to live freely in a democratic society.

In this [word indistinct], the agreements that we have signed on this occasion today and the agreement on the framework for cooperation between Romania and Spain are broad agreements and very important for Romania.

We must express thanks to many people whom we met here and with whom we held talks in these past few days, and [word indistinct] to identify the potential for cooperation between Romania and Spain.

We invite to Romania all representatives of Spanish enterprises, men of culture, and politicians. We expect them to come to Romania in order to understand better the Romanian people and the changes that Romania has undergone in this period as a result of the revolution. I do not want to be very long in my statements; however, I am glad that I have the possibility to answer as many questions as possible. Thank you.

Calls Visit 'Highly Important'

AU1904101990 Bucharest ROMPRES in English 0749 GMT 19 Apr 90

["Petre Roman: We Have Identified All Means of Rapprochement"—ROMPRES headline]

[Text] Bucharest ROMPRES 19/4/1990—At the end of the official visit Mr Petre Roman paid to Spain, the Spanish premier Felipe Gonzalez gave a lunch in honour of the Romanian prime minister and his party.

The two prime ministers toasted the future of the relations between the two countries and peoples, a productive cooperation in all areas, on mutually advantageous grounds.

Emphasis was placed on the occasion on the atmosphere of warm understanding and closeness that characterized the bilateral talks.

"My visit was remarkable from all points of view," stated Romanian Prime Minister Petre Roman before leaving Spain. He added: "palpable steps have been made in the process of rapprochement and cooperation between Romania and Spain, in the general process of reintegrating Romania in Europe. Exchanges in the fields of culture and education, visits by Spanish industrialists and financiers will be arranged soon, he said. I think that all the ways of rapprochement between Romania and Spain we could identify have been opened," the Romanian premier said in conclusion.

Back in Bucharest Prime Minister Petre Roman assessed his visit as highly important and useful for the relations between Romania and Spain. "We have concluded short-, medium- and long-term accords in domains in which Spain's experience proved its efficiency, that is in tourism, the food and light industries, etc. During the visit I could note a common sentiment between the two peoples. Therefore it was a useful visit which paved the path for a manysided bilateral cooperation," he said in conclusion.

ROMPRES Reviews Visit

AU1804201990 Bucharest ROMPRES in English 1905 GMT 18 Apr 90

[Text] Madrid, ROMPRES, 18/4/1990—ROMPRES special envoy Leonard Mehedinti reports:

The second round of official talks between Romanian Prime Minister Petre Roman and the host Prime Minister Felipe Gonzales proceeded at the Spanish Government 's headquarters, on April 18. The talks covered a wide range of questions. Meetings took place concomitantly between the two countries' government delegations working in three working commissions: political, economic and on culture and instruction. For Romania, the activities of the three commissions were participated in by Mihail Sora, minister of education, Mircea Mitran, deputy minister of foreign affairs, Eugen Dijmarescu, chairman of the state commission on coordination of foreign aid and investments, member of the government, Mihail Micu, deputy minister of foreign trade, Valeriu Goldis, deputy minister of tourism. A joint press conference was held the same day, where the two prime ministers outlined the results of the official visit in answering the interest shown by media representatives.

Romanian Prime Minister Petre Roman discussed on April 18 with Felix Pons Irazazabal, president of the Congress of Deputies, and with outstanding members of the parliament matters related to the Spanish constitutional structures instituted after the endorsement of the constitution in force, in 1975, as well as the legal electoral framework in Romania. Both parties expressed the wish to develop the relations between the two countries' supreme legislative fora, to start an extensive presentation of the experience gained in the process of institutionalizing democracy in Romania after the removal of the dictatorship.

A master-agreement of economic and industrial cooperation that establishes principles and specific domains of collaboration between the two countries was signed during the Romanian prime minister's visit in Spain. Agreement on principle was also reached on cooperation ventures between Romania and Spain.

Understandings were reached on the setting up of a Centre of High Hispanic Studies and of a Lectureship of Spanish Language at the Bucharest University.

In the economic domain, possibilities of bilateral collaboration and factors likely to favour immediate, average or long term ventures were analyzed in such domains as tourism, industry, agriculture power engineering, etc. The possibility of establishing a joint committee of

businessmen with the assistance of the Confederation of Spanish Enterprises' Organizations, was also discussed.

Very interesting is assessed to be the prospect of concluding an accord under which a team of tourism experts should come to Romania soon to probe for immediate opportunities of development in that compartment.

The Romanian prime minister's visit in Spain ended on April 18 in the evening.

Trieste Italian-Romanian Committee Meets Press

AU1704182690 Bucharest ROMPRES in English 1643 GMT 17 Apr 90

[Text] Bucharest, ROMPRES, 17/4/1990—Executives of the Trieste Italian-Romanian Committee of Solidarity that coordinates the activity of collection and transport of Italian aid for the Romanian people, met with Romanian journalists on April 17. They stressed that the committee organized the first dispatch of aid to the martyr city of Timisoara right after the revolution. So far the committee organized the dispatching to Romania of over 800 tons of goods as aid, consisting mainly of medicines, food and clothes. Likewise, more than 100 youth wounded during the revolution were sent for treatment to various hospitals in Italy through its care. Many of them returned home completely healed and resumed work.

The members of the committee also announced their intention to enlarge the collaboration between the Italian and Romanian peoples in the cultural, social and economic domains. A permanent office will open soon in Bucharest to directly coordinate such activities, some of which are already about to be materialized. It is about the union of the martyr cities of Trieste and Timisoara, the assignment to Romania, free of charge, of a pavilion at the Trieste International Fair, economic contacts between the ports of Trieste and Sulina.

Iliescu Visits Bucharest 'Republica' Enterprise

AU1904092190 Bucharest Domestic Service in Romanian 1900 GMT 18 Apr 90

[Text] This afternoon, Mr. Ion Iliescu was the guest of the working people's collectivity in the Republica enterprise. The talks with the members of the administration council and with the workers of this great productive unit focussed on current issues in the life and work of the Republica employees.

Mr. Iliescu was invited to visit two of the enterprise's sections and then he addressed several hundred working people who were waiting for him in the club hall of the Republica enterprise.

At the end of the visit, while leaving the enterprise, some representatives of the trade unions of the 23 August enterprise invited Mr. Iliescu to a discussion with the five trade unions and the leadership of the enterprise. Mr. Iliescu accepted the invitation, and, during some open discussions—which lasted for about three hours—the employees of the 23 August enterprise, the manager, experts, and workers, broadly presented the problems confronting the largest industrial unit of our country, under conditions in which efficiency and competitiveness should become imperative for the activity of the Romanian economy.

All the participants noted the need for cooperation between the five trade unions at the 23 August enterprise and the management of the enterprise.

Iliescu on Transition to Market Economy

AU1904093190 Bucharest ROMPRES in English 0745 GMT 19 Apr 90

["Election Campaign: A Market Economy With the Observance of Objective Laws"—ROMPRES headline]

[Text] Bucharest ROMPRES 19/4/1990—Speaking about Romania's transition to a market economy, at a meeting with representatives of the board of administration and the independent trade union of Bucharest's big "Republica" works Wednesday afternoon, Ion Iliescu said that should be done with due observance of the objective laws of the world economy. The market economy has not only virtues, he showed. It leads to polarization of wealth and poverty, to unemployment. Moreover he said, one of the worst phenomena that Romanian society will have to cope with is the mentality of people who are still prisoner of rigid, cumbersome, bureaucratic structures. No matter which party will be in power, Mr. Iliescu stressed, it cannot disregard these facts. He called on all honest social forces to make a common salvation front in Romania.

After the meeting, Mr. Iliescu discussed for several hours with representatives of the board of administration and the four trade unions of another large enterprise "23 August" on specific problems raised by workers' representatives and a spectrum of economic questions. The PNUC [Provisional National Unity Council] president insisted on the urgency of restructuring the national economy, the reconsideration of the tasks of ministries, and transition to the market economy.

Mr. Iliescu insisted on the importance of implementing the modern concept of electronization of production, of making products the quality of which should be comparable with that achieved in countries that have a tradition in the field. To get to that, he said, research, labour organization, and high-technology equipment should all play a part.

At the end of the talks Mr. Iliescu was asked by a group of workers to tell them what the talks had been about and many other questions, and was assured of their support in the upcoming election.

Iliescu Statement on Presidential Nomination

AU1904100790 Bucharest Domestic Service in Romanian 0400 GMT 19 Apr 90

[Text] We will now broadcast a statement by Mr. Ion Iliescu, the first political figure, whose candidacy for president has been registered officially.

[Begin Iliescu recording] I have registered my candidacy on behalf of the National Salvation Front [NSF]. At the same time, however, several parties and political formations have announced their support for this candidacy. I will go to the elections with a well-known and comprehensive platform, which actually began on 22 December with the proclamation of the NSF Council, was completed at the countrywide NSF conference, and given concrete shape through what we have done in the course of three months to bring about a process of renewal throughout the country. Thus, we aim at political renewal and promoting the spirit unleashed by the December revolution, at renewing the economy and social activity, at increasing efficiency in all areas, and at capitalizing on all (?assets) that may unleash the creative energy of our people, on all material and human resources in the service of our country's progress and the well-being of all.

An important element of our program is the social program. What we have in mind is—through the renewal of the economy as a whole and through defending the interests of the many—to alleviate the effects of a market economy which fatally [word indistinct] polarizing wealth and poverty (?leading to) discrepancies between the (?privileged) and the masses of the multitude. We try to create proper conditions for the development of spiritual and cultural activity, of science and education, and for propelling youth as a dynamic force of Romanian society. [end recording]

Electoral Bureau Judge Report on Nominees

AU1804153390 Bucharest ROMPRES in English 1058 GMT 18 Apr 90

[Text] Bucharest, ROMPRES, 18/4/1990—According to the information supplied by Judge Gheorghe Bucur, chairman of Bucharest Electoral Bureau, Constituency 41, the nominees of the National Liberal Party [NLP], the Union of Armenians in Romania, the Bucharest Branch of the Romanian People's Front of Iasi, and ten independent candidates were registered till 17 April. The National Liberal Party forwarded a complete list of nominees for 14 senators and 39 deputies, in accordance with the number of seats established for the capital's constituency.

Among the nominees who accepted to candidate [as received] in the 20 May elections are Radu Campeanu, NLP president, Writer Ionel Sandulescu, vice-chairman and chairman of the Bucharest NLP organization, and Actor Victor Rebengiuc.

Free Change Party Nominates Senate Candidates

AU1804182690 Bucharest ROMPRES in English 1637 GMT 18 Apr 90

[Text] Bucharest, ROMPRES, 18/4/1990—The election meeting of the Free Change Party was held in Bucharest to nominate the Bucharest City's candidates for the Assembly of Deputies and the Senate. Among the personalities included in the senators' list is Tenor Ludovic Spiess, Actor Florin Piersic, non-party members, Actor Dem Radulescu, party member, Writer Ioan Grigorescu as well as humorists, graphic artists, engineers and physicians.

NDP President on 'Center Democratic Grouping'

AU1804153590 Bucharest ROMPRES in English 1058 GMT 18 Apr 90

["Election Campaign—Shall the Centre Party Unite?"—ROMPRES headline]

[Text] Bucharest, ROMPRES, 18/4/1990—The Centre Democratic Grouping that will take part in the 20 May elections with lists common to all the constituencies in the country includes now 11 parties. As Mr. Ion Radu Ziliteanu, vice-president of the National Democratic Party [NDP], member of the Provisional National Unity Council, specified, the membership of the Centre Party Grouping stands at over 300,000. Being open to all centre parties, this grouping will have not a common candidate for the country's presidency. Some of the parties intend to merge into a strong centre party apt to influence the country's political life, Mr. Zilisteanu showed.

Vatra To Run in Elections Under New Party

LD1804154390 Budapest MTI in English 1440 GMT 18 Apr 90

[Text] Bucharest, April 18 (MTI)—The extremist, nationalist organization "Vatra Romaneasca" has formed a political party under the name "Party of the National Alliance of Romanians", with its headquarters in Brasov. The party is going to enter candidates for the May 20 elections.

In an appeal to "Romanian brothers", the new party calls for joint efforts towards "winning the elections".

Their political leaflets stress: "after the tragic events in Tirgu Mures, and in Mures, Harghita and Covasna counties, now it is necessary that we Transylvanian Romanians also forge complete unity."

According to the party, "should the Romanians in Transylvania fail to preserve their unity, the Hungarians, who have rallied under the leadership of the Hungarian Democratic Federation in Romania, will represent us."

Vatra Romaneasca emerged as a political party almost in the last minute, as all parties are required to submit their lists of candidates until April 20. The government,

however, was quick to react: It was announced on Wednesday that the executive office of the Provisional National Unity Council had lengthened this deadline until April 22.

National Reconstruction Party Holds 1st Congress

AU1804161090 Bucharest ROMPRES in English 1504 GMT 18 Apr 90

[Text] Bucharest, ROMPRES, 18/4/1990—The National Reconstruction Party of Romania [NRPR] held its first all-country congress on April 18 in Bucharest. The participants delegates of all counties and Bucharest City debated and endorsed the party's platform-program and statute. A centre party, the NRPR pursues the establishment of democracy, freedom and dignity of the Romanian people and Romania's reconstruction in all spheres of human activity. The party's motto is "Prosperity for all".

The congress elected the party's leading bodies (the all country Coordinating Council and the Steering Committee).

Mr. Oliviu Tocaciu, lawyer, was elected chairman of the party and Mr. Gabriel Iosif Ghizbain first vice-chairman.

The National Reconstruction Party of Romania has no candidate of its own for Romania's presidency. The party members are free to vote any of the candidates nominated by the other parties or political formations.

Writers Assembly on Outcome of Elections

AU1904105790 Bucharest ROMPRES in English 0940 GMT 19 Apr 90

["General Assembly of the Writers' Union]

[Text] Bucharest ROMPRES 19/4/1990—Several participants were asked the same question: What will happen in Romania?

Dan Desliu: The NSF [National Salvation Front] will certainly win the elections and Mr. Iliescu will be elected president. If the people elected have a strong opposition, there will be chances of political equilibrium and we shall have the guarantee that we shall never pass—in modified forms—to concentrated power and its use by a few's mind.

Ion Pogorilovschi: The election campaign has not the power to differentiate satisfactorily and to render political platforms pertinent. From this point of view I do not consider the elections ideal. Afterwards, the need for a great visionary spirit may become a pressing need.

Eugen Uricariu: This is the question that might challenge the destiny. However, if—in December—a popular revolt which overthrew the dictatorship was possible, I consider it natural that a revolution should follow to change the system. I hope it to be a peaceful revolution. I hope...

Ratiu Denies Allegations on Transylvania

AU1704174790 Bucharest ROMANIA LIBERA in Romanian 11 Apr 90 p 2

[Virgil Lazar article: "A Falsity Revealed by Mr. Ion Ratiu"]

[Text] Well, gentlemen, once again we can see what the obscure forces are able to do: They rudely falsified some documents to later pass them on as they desired to those who propose making use of them in the current election campaign. This procedure, used during Ceausesecu's dictatorship, has become a classic method, and no one is surprised that it has been revived today and publicly used. What are we talking about? A document is being circulated in some localities in Transylvania—and probably in other parts of the country—a "falsity" [vernacular reflects Ceausescu's mispronunciation] as the late leader used to say, a document attempting to discredit Mr. Ion Ratiu. It is a document allegedly concluded on 11 November 1989 by Mr. Ion Ratiu with an important German figure, whereby they pledge to struggle to free Transylvania from the communist tyranny and sever it from the rest of the country. It is a treacherous document, a Ceausescu-type of maneuver on the basis of which the authors—and they know who else—tried to deal a blow to the president of the World Union of Free Romanians, who has been proposed by the National Peasants Party-Christian Democratic as candidate for the country's presidency.

Discussing this subject in a news conference in Cluj-Napoca, Mr. Ion Ratiu drew the journalists' attention to the way in which this falsity had come about and provided detailed explanations about the document in question, which was also presented to the press representatives. First, he said, there is no similarity between the letters used for the heading of documents issued by the World Union of Free Romanians and those used by the counterfeiters and the incriminating text. Then there is the format which is completely unaesthetic (almost without any margin) smacking of haste, inattention, or the lack of skill by the falsifiers. Finally, there is the use—from another document stolen at one point by the former Securitate—of a stamp, bearing the inscription of Union of Free Romanians, without the word "world," which for many years has no longer been in use. What is true in this story—which is sad rather than serious, because it reminds us of the still so-close times of the dramatic "golden era," when you could be charged with anything without being able to defend yourself? Mr. Ratiu was indeed in Frankfurt on 11 November 1989, together with the representatives of Channel 5 of French television to shoot a documentary film. He stayed there only that day and was never alone to be able to have such protocol meetings—not even discreet ones—and be able to conclude and sign understandings like the falsified

document. The only sure thing is that, as one can see, the Securitate knew of Mr. Ratiu's visit to Frankfurt am Main and the forfeiters tried to combine things in such a way that everything looked credible. Credible even for some newspapers and magazines which hasten to publish the text viewing it as a great...discovery, not to mention the fact that it was posted up in the branches of the National Salvation Front which "capitalized on" it with undisguised joy and we know why.

Mr. Ion Ratiu, making a denial and explaining the way this falsity had come about, also made some statements of a political nature in connection with the nationality problems in Transylvania from which we quote a few: All my life I have said—wherever I have been in the world—that the Romanian people and the Hungarian people have to fraternize. In the world papers and in my writings, I have always defended the Romanian nature of Transylvania and combated Hungarian chauvinistic statements. A fourth of a population in a province cannot dominate the great majority. We want to establish genuine democracy in which all people should have the same chances. We favor a democracy based on mutual respect between people of good faith. No one should be condemned a priori without conclusive proof. Genuine democracy cannot function without this mutual respect"... At this press conference, Mr. Ion Ratiu also denied other rumors circulating about him—rumors which are also used in the current election campaign—including the one according to which his wife was a Hungarian woman from Satu Mare County and that this would allegedly explain the chauvinistic events there. This is a "strong" rumor which would probably amuse Mrs. Ratiu, who is a true-born English woman, if she heard it. Thus, the "factory of rumors"—as a colleague of mine puts it—is operating very efficiently. Beware, good people!

Association Presses Revolution Participants Claims

AU1804154590 Bucharest ROMPRES in English 1027 GMT 18 Apr 90

[Text] Bucharest, ROMPRES, 18/4/1990—The "21 December" association of Bucharest which gathers survivors of that day's tragic events has drafted a number of normative acts which pursue inter alia the settlement, with priority, of the claims of the persons who have partially or totally lost their work capacity, or of the families of the deceased, the granting of free-of-charge legal assistance, the increase of the pensions set in February 1990.

Not having the right to legislative initiative, on 17 April 1990 the "21 December" association of Bucharest advanced these drafts to several bodies, parties, political groups independent personalities for them to set them forth to the Provisional National Unity Council.

The wish of the "21 December" association is that the tragic events of the revolution be used by no one during the election campaign.

It is for this reason that it requested that, during the debates, those who will submit the drafts for approval should mention their initiators.

Timisoara Trial of Former Securitate Continues

AU1804182690 Bucharest ROMPRES in English 1355 GMT 18 Apr 90

[Text] Bucharest, Rompres, 18/4/1990—The trial of former Securitate members and other persons charged with complicity to genocide and favouring genocide and other offences committed in December 1989 continues at the Higher Court of Justice's Military Department in Timisoara. The defendants are accused to have opened fire on unarmed demonstrators in Timisoara, and to have continued their street actions after the dictator was toppled, shooting and killing about one hundred and wounding another 300. Furthermore, some of the defendants smuggled 40 corpses from the mortuary of the Timisoara County Hospital and took them to Bucharest where they were cremated at the Cenusa Crematory in an attempt to leave no trace of the massacre.

The trial, which began on 2 March, has now reached the testimony stage. On 18, 19, and 20 April the witnesses of the prosecution will testify in the case brought against Veverca Iosif, an ex-judiciary officer, one of the 21 in the box who is also tried separately on the charge of qualified manslaughter. He opened fire on a group of demonstrators and killed an 18-year old man. In the meantime, military prosecutors continue their investigation of another 16 ex-military (13 of them in the ranks of the ex-Ministry of the Interior and three of them in the ranks of armed forces) who are accused of firing on peaceful demonstrators in Timisoara.

Foreign Reporters Association Set Up

AU1804163090 Bucharest ROMPRES in English 1343 GMT 18 Apr 90

[Text] Bucharest, ROMPRES, 18/4/1990—The Association of Foreign Press Correspondents Accredited to Romania was set up in Bucharest on Wednesday as an independent organization with exclusively professional aims. The plenary meeting of the association elected a Steering Committee. Its president is Gian Marco Venier, while its secretary-general Nicolae Lupu.

The association is based in Str. Al. Donici No.6, telephone number 11-87-08.

Justice League Holds 1st Congress in Bucharest

AU1804163190 Bucharest ROMPRES in English 1447 GMT 18 Apr 90

[Text] Bucharest, ROMPRES, 18/4/1990— The first all-country congress of the League for Justice opened in Bucharest Wednesday morning.

The League, a national organization which has committees in all zones of the country takes action to promote

the rule of law in Romania and redress the wrongs done by the judiciary and the prosecution both in the time of the communist dictatorship and after December's revolution, to maintain Romania's traditional sense of justice.

Congress participants will discuss the League's statute, its rules of organization and functioning, and the Steering Committee's activity, after which they will elect country and city representatives, independent candidates for the two chambers of parliament, and the organs of the organization.

Democratic Union of Romanies Conference Held

AU1804182490 Bucharest ROMPRES in English 1707 GMT 18 Apr 90

[Text] Bucharest, ROMPRES, 19/4/1990—The first all-country conference of the Democratic Union of Romanies took place on April 18, attended by delegates from 16 counties of Romania, Ilfov Agricultural Sector and Bucharest City. The Union plans to contribute to establishing the Romanies' interests, their representation in the political, administrative and cultural bodies of Romania, their integration in all domains of social life as responsible and active citizens.

An account was presented in opening the conference, on the 4th International Congress of Romanies held in Warsaw, over April 8-12, 1990, which was attended also by a delegation from Romania. Then, Lawyer Nicolae Bobu presented the Union's activity and its future lines of action.

The participants in the conference elected their Bucharest City candidates for the parliament.

The conference of the Democratic Union of Romanies of Romania decided to sustain Ion Iliescu's candidature for Romania's presidency.

Association of Humanitarian Law Set Up

AU1904105590 Bucharest ROMPRES in English 0936 GMT 19 Apr 90

[Text] Bucharest ROMPRES 19/4/1990—The first Association of Humanitarian Law in Romania has been set up in Bucharest. It is a professional organization whose aim is to militate for the promotion and observance of international standards of a humanitarian character stipulated in international conventions to which Romania is or should be a party, to draw public opinion's attention to the great dangers mankind faces and to propose solutions to dispel them in an institutionalized framework.

The association, which gathers men of science and letters, diplomatists, journalists, military, students, red cross staff a.o. is a forum of research, debate, exchange of viewpoints and experience of dissemination of the results of research and of information. It will establish cooperative relations with relevant national and international institutions, organizations and bodies, as well as with renowned experts in this field in different states. It also intends to found a library and issue a quarterly running translations as well as original papers.

Presidency Ends Kosovo State of Emergency

LD1804173790 Belgrade TANJUG Domestic Service in Serbo-Croatian 1700 GMT 18 Apr 90

[Text] The SFRY Presidency has ended the state of emergency in Kosovo and decided by a majority of votes to release 108 so-called political prisoners, although it has not stated which ones. Here is the statement:

The SFRY Presidency has decided to end the state of emergency in Kosovo. That is, in receiving a full review of the current situation in Kosovo and of the measures of the responsible state bodies, and since it had demanded and received positive views and proposals from the Presidency of the Socialist Republic of Serbia and the Federal Executive Council, the SFRY Presidency judged that public order and peace in Kosovo has stabilized to a degree and that conditions for making such a decision have been met. The decision is also related to the fact that reform and democratic processes, which created the opportunity for Kosovo's problems to be resolved in a democratic fashion and under peaceful circumstances, have begun in the country. The SFRY Presidency demands that all state bodies of Serbia, Kosovo and the SFRY be involved as much as possible in order to carry out their tasks laid down in constitutional law and to establish a law-governed state. The Yugoslav Presidency expects all Kosovo citizens to contribute toward the stabilization of the situation in the province and the establishment of trust between people of different nationalities with their responsible behavior and willingness to work on democratic solutions.

Presidency Statement on Kosovo Emergency

LD1804205390 Belgrade TANJUG Domestic Service in Serbo-Croatian 1839 GMT 18 Apr 90

[Text] Belgrade, 18 Apr (TANJUG)—The SFRY Presidency has lifted the state of emergency in Kosovo and with a majority of votes has adopted a decision on the freeing 108 so-called political prisoners from further serving of prison sentences. A statement from today's session of the SFRY Presidency says:

The SFRY Presidency at a session held today and presided over by President Janez Drnovsek, adopted a decision on the cessation of the existence of extraordinary circumstances and the abolition of the state of emergency on the territory of the Socialist Autonomous Province [SAP] of Kosovo. Having taken into consideration all the circumstances of the present situation in Kosovo and the measures of the competent state organs, and after previously seeking and obtaining the positive views and suggestions of the Serbian Presidency and the Federal Executive Committee [FEC], the SFRY Presidency assessed that a certain degree of stabilization of public order and peace has been arrived at in Kosovo and that conditions have been fulfilled for the adoption of a decision on the abolition of the state of emergency. The SFRY Presidency trusts this decision will contribute to the further improvement of the overall situation in Kosovo and in the country as a whole.

The SFRY Presidency adopted this decision in light of the fact that democratic reform processes are opening up in the country which are creating the possibility of the problems in Kosovo being resolved in a democratic manner and in a peaceful atmosphere. The SFRY Presidency calls on all state organs of the Socialist Republic of Serbia, the SAP of Kosovo and the SFRY to fully involve themselves in the execution of their duties within the framework of the constitution and the law and in establishing the functioning of a law-governed state. The SFRY Presidency expects all citizens in the SAP of Kosovo to contribute, by behaving responsibly and showing readiness for democratic solutions within the general reform trends and democratization of social and political life in our country, to the further stabilization of the situation in the province and the return of confidence among people in the sphere of intranational relations.

The SFRY Presidency has examined together with representatives of the councils of Academies of Science and Arts of Yugoslavia certain issues relating to the position of science, education, and culture. It was concluded that the position of science, education, and culture in our country must be brought into line with the needs of the economic and social reforms in the country and involvement in the integrational trends in Europe. The SFRY Presidency will, together with the Federal Executive Party, propose to the SFRY Assembly this problem, be looked a comprehensively.

Looking at current issues concerning Yugoslavia's relations with European economic and political groupings, such as the EEC, EFTA, and the Council of Europe, the SFRY Presidency assessed that tangible progress has been made recently in the direction of concrete cooperation and the more rapid institutional integration of Yugolavia with these European integrational groupings.

The SFRY Presidency called for the procedures to be speeded up for Yugoslavia to join these convocations, and for the process of coordinating our legislation with the legislature of these economic and political groupings to be speeded up as well.

The SFRY Presidency also heard reports on the recent official and friendly visit to Yugoslavia by Cypriot President Yeoryiou Vasiliou. It was assessed that the talks and meetings between President Janez Drnovsek and President Yeoryiou Vasiliou confirmed the high level of the relations and cooperation between the two countries and expressed their mutual interest in ensuring their further development and the promotion of all forms of cooperation, particularly in the area of the economy.

At today's session, by a majority of votes, the SFRY Presidency adopted a decision on releasing 108 so-called political prisoners from further serving their prison sentences.

FEC Calls for Postponing Border Zone Talks

LD1804225690 Belgrade TANJUG Domestic Service in Serbo-Croatian 1414 GMT 18 Apr 90

[Excerpt] Belgrade, 18 Apr (TANJUG)—The FEC [Federal Executive Council] has called in the SFRY Assembly today for the temporary postponement of discussion on the proposed laws on state border crossings and movement in the border zone and on concessions for foreign tourists visiting Yugoslavia during "The Year of European Tourism."

Explaining the government's latest move to the delegates of the Federal Chamber Committee for Internal Policy, the proposer's representative, assistant federal secretary for internal affairs, Jovan Vuckovic said this was necessary to more comprehensively take into consideration all the proposals and remarks on the proposed law in the meantime, above all the part that refers to the extension of the border zone from 100 to 1000 meters, the use of modern technology and a reduction in "manpower" in that zone.

With regard to the adoption of the law on concessions for foreign tourists, Vuckovic stressed that first the results of the latest FEC's measures on introducing a "fee" for tourists from East European countries entering our country should be taken into consideration. According to him, there has recently been strong pressure from tourists from these countries, especially Romania, for entry, who are very often used to illegally crossing into Western countries. Besides, large-scale congestion at the border crossings with Italy and Austria is expected, and it is not out of the question that these countries will also take certain measures. The present situation could be used by the Federal Republic of Germany to introduce entry visas for our citizens as well, Vuckovic said. [passage omitted: discussions on the initiatives for passing the law on dangerous materials transportation and some other laws related to sea-borne transportation, and on the initiative for forming a state commission for establishing legitimacy of work of some state bodies and services, such as Internal State Security Service, judicary and military bodies]

Government Seeks To Postpone Discussion on Bills

LD1804213590 Belgrade TANJUG in English 1810 GMT 18 Apr 90

[Text] Belgrade, April 18 (TANJUG)—The Yugoslav Federal Government today urged the federal parliament to put off the discussions on two bills which it, itself, has submitted, calling for the extension of the border belt and for the simplification of the procedure for the entry of foreigners into Yugoslavia. Under the proposed revision of the law on the crossing of the state border, the Army would be given certain powers in the border belt, which would be extended to 1,000 meters inside Yugoslav territory.

A protest against the Federal Government's proposal was organized in Yugoslavia's Republic of Slovenia a month ago. The Federal Government had explained at the time that its proposal did not call for a stricter regime in the border belt but for a stricter control of illegal border crossings, whose number it said had drastically risen.

The Federal Government today explained that the parliamentary discussion on the bill needed to be put off so that "all proposals and objections to the bill could be reviewed comprehensively."

The Federal Government requested that the Federal Government also put off discussing its bill on the facilitating of the entry of foreigners into Yugoslavia, because tourists from Eastern European countries, especially Romania, have of late been massively arriving in Yugoslavia in order illegally to cross from Yugoslavia into Western European countries.

The Federal Government urged that the bill be shelved until it was seen what results would be produced by its latest measure, under which tourists on Eastern European countries have to change 200 dollars into dinars when entering Yugoslavia. The measure will go into effect at midnight on Friday.

Demos Followers Block Border With Austria

AU1804182290 Vienna ORF Teletext in German 1813 GMT 18 Apr 90

[Text] Ljubljana—Today dozens of followers of the Slovene opposition alliance Demos blocked the Yugoslav side of the Loiblpass border checkpoint [at the Austrian-Yugoslav border] with 50 tractors.

Their protest was directed against the plans of the Belgrade central government to expand the military zone along the border from the current 100 meters to 1,000 meters.

During the one-hour blockade, a kilometer-long line of cars formed on the Yugoslav side; cars on the Austrian side had to wait for about one hour. The demonstrators have threatened to stage another blockade in two weeks.

Congressional Poll on Future of 14th Congress

AU1804123390 Belgrade BORBA in Serbo-Croatian 13 Apr 90 p 1

[TANJUG report: "Majority Favors Modern LCY"]

[Text] Belgrade—Following the working-consultative session of the Central Committee of the League of Communists of Yugoslavia [LCY] on 30 March, the Expert Service [strucna sluzba] of the Central Committee of the LCY asked the delegates of the interrupted 14th extraordinary congress to answer a questionnaire on whether they are in favor of continuing the congress or not. According to the report from the section for development and cadre policy of the Central Committee

of the LCY, which is in charge of this questionnaire, up to yesterday noon answers were received from 845 delegates, which is more that one half (1655). Out of those who answered so far, 735 are in favor of the congress continuing, 101 are against, and 9 are undecided.

There were 94 replies from the League of Communists [LC] in Bosnia-Hercegovina (47 "for," 44 "against," and 3 undecided); 85 from the LC in Montenegro (all "for"); 44 from the LC in Croatia (9 "for," 32 "against," and 3 undecided); 25 from the LC in Macedonia (16 "for," 7 "against," and 2 undecided); 9 from the LC in Slovenia (all "against"); 322 from the LC in Serbia (321 "for" and 1 "against"); 74 from the LC in Kosovo (72 "for" and 2 "against"); 143 from the LC in Vojvodina (all "for"); 45 from the LC Organization in the Yugoslav People's Army (38 "for," 6 "against," and 1 undecided); and 4 from the basic LC organization in the federation (all "for").

In addition, by yesterday noon, the Expert Service of the Central Committee of the LCY received letters from 8,700 LC members, organs, and organizations which are dominated by the demand for the continuation of the 14th congress (90 percent). According to the estimate of the section for theoretical work of the Central Committee of the LCY, where individual and collective messages are arriving, the majority of the telegrams and letters received from various individuals and party organs reflect the mood of between 25,000 and 30,000 members of the LCY.

It is stated that "the great majority " of these communists, who are of all nationalities, support the letter sent to the membership from the working-consultative session of the Central Committee of the LCY, and demand that the LCY, as a modern political party, be a unified Yugoslav organization.

NARODNA ARMIJA on Political Emigres

LD1804210190 Belgrade TANJUG Domestic Service in Serbo-Croatian 1236 GMT 18 Apr 90

[Text] Belgrade, 18 April (TANJUG)—In the early sixties ideas emerged among intellectuals within the hostile Yugoslav emigres [JNE] about setting up a united organization as an "independent political opposition in exile." The speculation abroad about the so-called post-Tito era whetted the "appetite" within the JNE ranks—notes NARODNA ARMIJA today at the beginning of the first part of an article on "the collusion between the Yugoslav enemy emigres and opposition forces in Yugoslavia."

In this article—"The Offensive by the New Democratic Alternative"—authors P. Knezevic and M. Boskovic note that a group of intellectuals in Western countries, close to the senior officials of foreign intelligence services, started the initiative to rally the people a round the so-called democratic alternative. They advocated the abandonment of terrorism as a method of struggle because terrorism was at odds with the then policy and strategy in the West. The initiators of this new policy were the emigres Ivan Ivanovic Vane, a shipowner living in London, former Lieutenant Colonel in the British intelligence service, Monte Carlo honorary consul and a man of high standing within the business circles in the West, Desimir Tosic, Ljubo Sirc and Adil Zulfikarpasic. They were joined afterwards by Mihajlo Mihajlov, Aleksa Djilas and others.

Regardless of their national membership, after Tito's death they advocated even more vigorously the thesis about "national reconciliation" and legalization of contacts with the opposition in our country, be it Croat, Serb or Slovene. In this context the JNE abroad has organized every year the so-called "Democratic Encounters" which, as the years went by, received increasingly overt support from official Western policy.

The authors note that one such meeting was held in October 1989 in London, and in the lower house of the British Parliament too. It was attended by the "alternative" people from Yugoslavia, Katja Boh, Franc Bucar, Janez Jansa...On the other hand, individual members of the so-called new Democratic Alternative [NDA] living abroad came to Yugoslavia last year, for instance Ljubo Sirc. During various receptions abroad they aggressively collared our diplomatic and consular officials, seeking an official dialogue.

Some foreign diplomats too, the article notes, having previously served in Yugoslavia act as go-betweens with increasing frequency, through "social contacts," between the "New Democratic Alternative" from the JNE ranks and opposition forces in the country, supporting as they do the establishment of a coalition between the NDA protagonists abroad and the so-called opposition leaders in Yugoslavia are increasingly frequent, virtually daily. The recent arrival in Yugoslavia of Dr. Mate Mestrovic is mentioned, "and it is understood that Mihajlo Mihaljov, Aleksa Djilas and others who had written several articles hostile to the SFRY" in NASA REC, an emigre magazine printed in London," will be allowed to do the same."

The question is posed whether all these individuals assembled around the so-called New Democratic Alternative deserve "the hand of conciliation" proffered by the opposition forces in our country. The organizers and coordinators of this activity are a group of 50-odd intellectuals from previous nationalistic groups who are trying to set up a single "transnational" organization of all Yugoslav hostile emigres—NDA. They are trying to rally "the remaining democratic forces in our country" around this organization, thus setting up a "United Opposition Front."

The organizers of the "New Democratic Alternative" are: Vladimir Adzemovic, vice chairman of the "Draza Mihailovic" organization in New York; Zdenko Antic, editor and analyst in Radio Free Europe—Yugoslav section; Dusan Dutina, a member of the Association of

Free Yugoslavs in Scandinavia organization; Aleksa Djilas, a member of "Oslobodjenje" [Liberation] Alliance; Ivan Ivanovic Vane, the ideological creator of NDA; Ivan Jakic, a member of the Coat Revolutionary Youth; Roko Kaleb, editor of HRVATSKA ZORA [CROAT DAWN]; JDS [expansion unknown] Buducnost [Future]; Raul Kenig; Marko Krstic, a member of Oslobodjenje Alliance; Mihajlo Mihaljov, the founder of the "Committee for Aid to Democratic Dissidents in Yugoslavia," Branko Milunovic, secretary of the "Social-Democratic Community of Yugoslavs Outside their Country," Dusan Plenicar, president of the "Slovene Democratic Party;" Milan Radovic, a member of the Main Committee of the Oslobodjenje Alliance; Ljubo Sirc, who has links with several emigre organizations; Slobodan Stankovic, president of the Coordination Committee of the JDS Buducnost; Tefik Velagic, a committee member of the "Young Muslims" organization; Adil Zulfikarpasic, editor of BOSANSKI PREGLEDI magazine; Ciril Zebot, chairman of the "Committee for a Free Slovenia," and others.

In their hostile stance vis-a-vis the SFRY the supporters of NDA rely for support on some international, the Democratic International, the Liberal International, Amnesty International, Radio Free Europe, the Paris group of intellectuals from Yugoslavia, and even emigres in East European countries...

There are Serbs, Croats, Slovenes, Macedonians and Muslims in many emigre organizations and NDA groups. They are also trying to involve members of Albanian emigre emigration in their activity.

It is symptomatic, NARODNA ARMIJA notes, among other things, at the end of its text—the second part of which is due to be published in its next issue—that the program of NDA and some other emigre oganizations, especially the Slovene, and partly of the Croat and Serb hostile emigres too, "tallies" with the latest aspirations of opposition forces in the country which are pressing for the formtion of a multiparty system and formation of the so-called third confederal Yugoslavia in which state autonomy should be recognized to Slovenia, Croatia, Bosnia and Hercegovina, Macedonia and Serbia (without the provinces and with Montenegro).

Election Program on European Green List Coalition

LD1804222790

[Editorial Report] Zagreb Domestic Service in Croat at 1505 GMT on 18 April carries an eight-minute report in the "Elections '90" program. The announcer introduces the candidates of the European Green List Coalition as Zoran Milovic, candidate of the Autonomous Democratic Alliance of Croatia, Vito Cesmadziski, chairman of the Radical Association for the United States of Europe, and Luciano Luksic, nonparty candidate.

The announcer notes that the European Green List Coalition was founded as a transideological coalition of the social and political forces in Croatia.

He notes further that the coalition's basic principles are: Europe as the framework within which they view future Croatia and Yugoslavia, protection of the environment, human rights, nonnationalistic education and relations in society, women's rights, and the rights of national and social minorities. The coalition includes: the Autonomous Democratic Alliance of Croatia, the Zagreb Green Action, the Radical Association for the United States of Europe, and the Independent Trade Union of the unemployed. The coalition is open to all parties with suitable programs. The parties within the coalition do not promote their image by emphasizing national values.

The candidates then give their opinions on the elections in general terms, criticizing the right-wing parties taking advantage of the present political situation promising more than they can fulfill, especially concerning the economy, while the left-wing parties are clinging to the ideas of an abstract democracy. The candidates note the coalition does not advocate hatred, divisions, ideology; it is neither left wing nor right wing. The candidates then discuss the futility of intranational conflicts within Yugoslavia, each constituent part is striving to achieve its own sovereignty on one hand but is also advocating the idea of joining a united Europe. The candidates give profiles and predictions on who will win the election.

Rupel Election Failure Attributed to CIA Link

AU1904112690 Belgrade NIN in Serbo-Croatian 15 Apr 90 p 14

[Unattributed report: "Spies"]

[Text] According to a report of the Federal Secretariat for Internal Affairs, 50 spies and agents of other countries were uncovered, prosecuted, and prevented from working in Yugoslavia last year. That this figure is far from being realistic has been demonstrated by the election campaign in Slovenia. During a radio program in which 12 candidates for four places in the republican presidency waged their election battle and conducted talks, Bostjan Zupancic, candidate of the LCS [former initials of the League of Communists of Slovenia]—Party of Democratic Reform, at one point said:

"Mister, you are an agent of the Central Intelligence Agency!"

This accusation was addressed to a Demos candidate, Dimitrij Rupel, who angrily replied: "Who told you that?" Zupancic immediately responded:

"The attache of the U.S. Embassy in Athens!"

Rupel was not heard in the afore-mentioned program anymore, and, as is known, miserably failed in the elections. Even his attacks on Austrian Chancellor Vranitzky's pro-Yugoslav statements did not help him.

At present it is not known to what extent Zupancic's accusations contributed to Rupel's fiasco at the elections, but it is certain that interpersonal clashes are gaining in pace in Yugoslavia. The well informed say that this is only the beginning. What is the end going to be like?

Slovene Socialists End Participation in SAWPY

LD1804152190 Zagreb Domestic Service in Serbo-Croatian 1300 GMT 18 Apr 90

[Text] Delegation members of the Slovene Socialist Alliance to the Socialist Alliance of Working People of Yugoslavia [SAWPY] Federal Conference, together with the two members from Slovenia of the SAWPY Federal Conference Presidium, will no longer serve their mandates in these bodies until after multiparty democratic elections in Yugoslavia that will help the Socialist Alliance to be set up as an organization in tune with contemporary social relations and needs. The creation is therefore proposed of conditions conducive to reorganization and of a transitional coordinating body that will include representatives of all interested organizations of the Socialist Alliance.

This is the essence of a telegram sent by the Presidium Executive Committee of the Slovene Socialist Alliance to the SAWPY Federal Conference. The telegram was read today at a session of the SAWP Federal Conference Presidium.

SAWPY Presidium on Transformation Into Party

AU1804183190 Belgrade Domestic Service in Serbo-Croatian 1300 GMT 18 Apr 90

[Text] The Presidium of the Federal Conference of the Socialist Alliance of Working People of Yugoslavia [SAWPY] has endorsed the draft platform of this organization's transformation into an independent political organization. The delegation of the Socialist Alliance of Working People [SAWP] of Slovenia and both members of this republic's Presidency have withdrawn from the front organization. In a message sent to the Federal Conference, Slovenia proposes that the Yugoslav Socialist Alliance be set up as an alliance of independent alliances. Momcilo Boskovic has the details:

The truncated Presidium—only Marjan Kotar from Slovenia and two members from Croatia attended—discussed a document on the transformation of this organization. Many criticisms and suggestions were heard concerning the proposal that the Socialist Alliance be transformed into an independent political organization or party. There was the criticism that the platform does not contain the development of Kosovo and there is no program that would attract the young generation.

The name of the new organization was discussed again. There was the proposal that it be called a people's party or the Yugoslav people's party. Everyone agreed on one thing, that in the future it must have a Yugoslav orientation.

The Presidium members were briefed on the decision by the SAWP of Slovenia to withdraw from the SAWPY. The telex from Slovenia was read out by Josip Hrvatin, secretary of the Federal Conference.

We think that the Federal Conference is inappropriately and irrationally constituted on the present foundations. Therefore, we are proposing that conditions be created for its reorganization, in which we, with our experience, are prepared to participate. In our assessment, (?agreement is possible) between republican and provincial conferences on associating at the federal level in the form of an alliance of alliance or in another similar way.

In Slovenia—the end of this statement says—we are constructing a party on the basis of individual membership and we are willing to participate in the Yugoslav organization as an independent entity. Our attitude toward the future SAWPY is a result of our programmatic orientation to join with all those in the country who think the same after the pluralist democratic elections in Yugoslavia.

The Presidium also discussed preparations for the electoral conference scheduled for the 24 April. This is a transitional period and the term of office of the elected officials will last until October because a founding congress is to be held in the Fall. Josip Hrvatin, the current secretary and delegate from Croatia, was proposed as the president of the Federal Conference.

It was agreed that despite the telex from Slovenia, a telegram should be sent to the leaders inviting them to attend the electoral conference, because, as Jelena Milojevic, SAWPY president, explained, the leadership and membership of the SAWP of Slovenia are depressed by the results of the elections and [word indistinct] of the votes won.

The Presidium endorsed the proposed decision that the rights of the SAWPY Federal Conference as the founders of the BORBA newspaper, (?RAD JUGOSLAVIJA), FILMSKE NOVOSTI, and the magazines, MEDJUNARODNA POLITIKA, JUGOSLOVENSKI PREGLED, and JUGOSLOVENSKA REVIJA should be transferred to the SFRY Assembly.

Slovene Socialist Alliance Breaks From SAWPY

LD1804202890 Belgrade TANJUG Domestic Service in Serbo-Croatian 1457 GMT 18 Apr 90

[Text] Ljubljana, 18 Apr (TANJUG)—The Slovene Socialist Alliance is finally on its own. It is laid down by the constitution that it has "divorced" itself from the state, later on from a series of associated members, recently from the Communists and today from the Socialist Alliance of Working People of Yugoslavia [SAWPY] and one is under the impression that it also

"divorced" itself from the Slovene church. As of today the Socialist Alliance, the future Socialist Party, is no longer a member of the SAWPY but, according to what its leaders told the journalists at a news conference, it does not rule out the possibility of cooperation—even institutional cooperation—with the related parties in the country, including a formal kind of cooperation at the federal level. The Socialist Alliance maintains that—in the situation where republican and provincial Socialist Alliances are being transformed into political parties—it is irrational to constitute the SAWPY Federal Conference in the same way as before, which is precisely the intention at the electoral conference planned for the end of April in Belgrade. There will be no delegates from Slovenia at this conference and the proposals for two representatives from the Slovene Socialist Alliance to the future SAWPY leadership have equally been withdrawn.

In the words of Primoz Hainc from the Socialist Alliance leadership it would be acceptable at the Yugoslav level to have an integration in the form of the alliance of alliances which would in the transitional period be led by a coordinating body composed of representatives from all the interested organizations. Arguments in support of these stands are aspirations toward a confederative system in Yugoslavia and the program orientations whereby links would be established with all like-minded people in the country at the time of pluralist democratic elections.

Likewise, the Socialist Alliance does not close its doors to cooperation with the church, although this cooperation has certainly been spoiled by the recent statement by Metropolitan Alojzij Sustar, Archbishop of Ljubljana, in connection with the elections in Slovenia. The Socialist Alliance leadership asseses his message to the faithful as an anticonstitutional act in collision with the Vatican headquarters documents which ban the interference of the church in politics. The church in Slovenia did precisely that—campaigning during the elections for two parties-members of Demos, though the statement did not clearly mention for whom the faithful should vote. The religious press and the behavior of some priests during services indicate that the church supported the Slovene Christian Democrats and the Peasants' Alliance, which is interfering in politics and descending to cheap political games at a level which is not appropriate for this institution. In this way the church will in one way or another participate in Slovenia's power which is incompatible with our laws and would only damage the church itself. As a statement contrary to this one Primoz Hainc quoted the statement by Zagreb Archbishop Cardinal Kuharic.

During the news conference there was also a discussion on the proposal by the Serbian Presidency for the abolition of emergency measures in Kosovo. Joze Smole, the party leader, briefly noted that the abolition of these measures is not in itself a guarantee that the situation in this province is settled and that there will be no further repressions. In his words it is a matter of a "propaganda move whose purpose is to show the world public good will and in fact change nothing."

The Socialist Party leadership announced that the first congress of its party in the first 10 days of june.

Republic President Potrc on Slovenia Developments

LD1904081290 Belgrade TANJUG in English 0001 GMT 19 Apr 90

[Text] Ljubljana, April 18 (TANJUG)—Social changes in the Republic of Slovenia, northwestern Yugoslavia, within its system's institutions and with principled support from a majority of Slovenia's nationals have passed more peacefully and much more quickly and radically than elsewhere in Yugoslavia, Miran Potrc, president of this republic's assembly, said here today.

This was possible by reason of a higher democratic spirit in political relations, on account of a higher openness towards the West in the matters of information, ideology and communications as well as of a higher degree of respect for human rights and because of the fact that as early as a decade ago we abandoned to prosecute people in court for their differing political convictions and activities, for the benefit of the administration of justice and the influence of the science of law, Potrc considered.

The introduction of political party democracy and party elections for an assembly of Slovenia have made it possible for its parliamentary system to start acting, Potrc went on. Essentially made stronger have been elements of sovereignty for Slovenia's state. In the field of politics, much stimulated have been the processes of democratization in many other parts of Yugoslavia. Opened have been many untouchable questions so far and debates on them stimulated, he said.

At the same time, within Yugoslavia, changes in Slovenia have contributed to much more clearly separating the progressive from the retrogresssive, Miran Potrc, president of Slovenia's assembly, said among other things.

Survey of Croatian Election Scene

LD1804150490 Belgrade TANJUG in English 1210 GMT 18 Apr 90

["What the main three election groups stand for (the second in a series of three daily features) by Borislav Korkodelovic and Zorica Markovic"—TANJUG headline]

[Text] Belgrade, April 18 (TANJUG)—Only [words indistinct] after a call for free elections was voiced in Zagreb by a small and, at that time, illegal political alternative headed by intellectuals round the Association for Yugoslav Democratic Initiative (AYDI), three political groups will compete at the first multiparty elections in Croatia for fifty years.

The predominant party in the Croatian democratic bloc—the Croatian Democratic Union (CDU)—considers itself a center party "like the parties headed by Margaret Thatcher, George Bush and Helmut Kohl." The CDU claims to be "Croat to the core," with its president Dr Franjo Tudjman already formed as the national leader.

The party and the bloc see Yugoslavia as a confederation which will respect "authentic Croatian sovereignty" and guarantee (?full) civil rights to the Serbs, the second-largest people in the republic. The CDU does not accept the economic reform of Prime Minister Ante Markovic, himself a Croat, in its sections providing for centralization at the Yugoslav level.

Opponents of the CDU in Croatia and some other Yugoslav republics have warned publicly that Dr Tudjman is getting involved in "dangerous nationalistic games" and that he stops at nothing in an effort to come to power.

It is believed that by its 11th congress in December 1989, the League of Communists of Croatia-Party of Democratic Changes (LCC-PDC) last December has given a strong impetus to democratization in its own ranks, in Croatia, and—to a certain extent—in other parts of the countries.

The LCC-PDC, the inheritor of positive values from the war and postwar periods, has adopted a program offering peace and stability. It sees Yugoslavia as "democratic and federative" and, although not insensitive nationally, maintains that an autonomy for the Serbs in Croatia would be counterproductive. Communists, whose main candidate is Ivica Racan, identify to the minutest details with Markovic's program, while the prime minister has publicly declared his support for them.

Croat communists believe that a new Yugoslav program and the opening of a dialogue among citizens of all nationalities are needed for the troubled Kosovo Province, which is a part of the largest republic of Serbia.

The Coalition of People's Accord (CPA), rather loose until recently is better known for its two independent candidates—Savka Dabcevic-Kucar and Miko Tripalo—removed from political life about 20 years ago as the protagonists of what some describe as "Croat spring," and the others as a "mass (nationalist) movement."

The CPA is made up of seven parties which are not a priori either for or against Yugoslavia but believe that it should mean the "states which make it up." It tells the Serbs in Croatia that they cannot expect a policy detrimental to the majority people in the republic only for the sake of their having peace.

The fiercest attacks so far on Prime Minister Markovic have come from the CPA, not only because of "legal and constitutional centralization," but also because of what was described as "insensitivenss to the sufferings" of ethnic Albanians in Kosovo. Finally, the CPA urges social and economic incentives for changing the direction of increasingly negative demographic trends among the Croat population in the republic.

Serbian Committee on Interethnic Relations

LD1804220890 Belgrade TANJUG Domestic Service in Serbo-Croatian 1630 GMT 18 Apr 90

[Excerpt] Belgrade, 18 Apr (TANJUG)—It cannot be guaranteed in advance that political pluralism in Yugoslavia would lead to an improvement in interethnic relations, at least not for the time being, said Dr. Prvoslav Ralic in his introductory report at the first session of the Serbian Socialist Alliance of Working People Conference Coordination Committee for Interethnic Relations in its new composition.

Explaining this stand, Ralic noted the majority of the parties promised independent national states and that the exaggeration of the national issue and efforts to reduce human freedoms to national freedoms and to turn everything human into national represented "historic regression which holds Yugoslavia so firmly in its grip."

Ralic was convinced that socialist and democratic forces in Serbia would do all they can to resolve "the Bermuda triangle of Yugoslavia's collapse." In reply to "selfish awareness," Serbia gives a rational answer to concrete proposals on the political system, the economic platform and the program for the equality and development of Kosovo. [sentence as received] [passage omitted]

Campaigning Ban in Croatia Effective 21-23 Apr

LD1804223990 Belgrade TANJUG Domestic Service in Serbo-Croatian 1946 GMT 18 Apr 90

[Text] Zagreb, 18 Apr (TANJUG)—A ban on all campaigning comes into force on the day of elections, as well as 24 hours before them, says a statement of the Republican Election Commission issued in Zagreb this evening.

The Republican Election Commission issued an instruction banning all campaigning from 0000 on 21 April [2200 GMT on 20 April] until 2400 on 23 April.

This means, it is stressed, that on these days the public information media may not report on any kind of election activities of the political parties, organizations, candidates for representatives and deputies, their voters and citizens. This also applies to newspapers and other forms of public information, which bear the date of 24 April but are off the press before 2400 on 23 April [2200 GMT].

UJDI Launches Newspaper REPUBLIKA

LD1804212190 Belgrade Tanjug Domestic Service in Serbo-Croatian 1729 GMT 18 Apr 90

[Summary] Belgrade, 18 Apr (TANJUG)—The Association for Yugoslav Democratic Initiative [UJDI] launched the newspaper REPUBLIKA at a press conference in the International Press Center in Belgrade today. The double issue of REPUBLIKA is almost entirely devoted to Kosovo and more specifically the recent roundtables in Mostar and Pristina. The UJDI members are hoping that the dialogue—which for them is the only solution to the Kosovo crisis—will take place sooner or later. They also told journalists that it was necessary that the ethnically opposed sides should at least recognize each other as opponents and not as enemies, and open negotiations in order to find a way out.